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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XI

APRIL, 1917

No. 1

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

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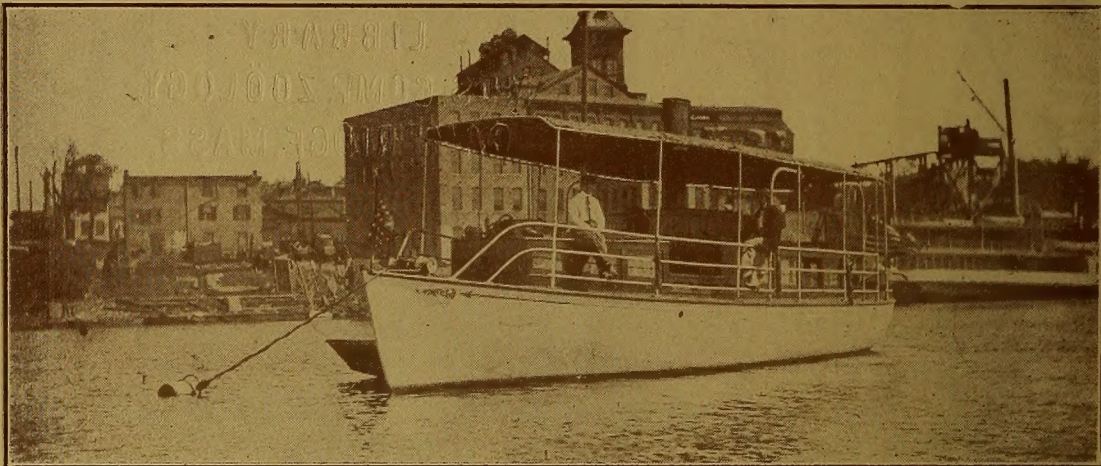
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The subject is one to which you should give serious consideration. All the information which we have regarding it is at your disposal. If you will write for our booklet, "Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure", we will gladly send you a copy without cost to you. When writing use the coupon below.

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The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Raiding a Game Farm.

A most shocking performance—a game police raid on a Long Island game farm—was reported recently in the daily papers.

No doubt the police were within their rights; no doubt it is an absurd crime to take birds for propagation in New York. It must be humiliating, however, to an intelligent State game officer to see his police raid a private farm because the employes were unaware that it is criminal in New York to take a few birds for breeding purposes, or, possibly, to even catch the ducks bred and owned by the farmer.

It is legal to shoot and entirely destroy hundreds of ducks during the open season; it is illegal to take even a small number for breeding purposes. Often we have said this absurd law should be amended so as to encourage and not prevent the production of wild fowl.

P. S.—It is reported \$15,000 was paid to settle, which is just \$14,999.75 too much.

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More Freedom.

Often the English papers and magazines, after their editors have read about an absurd arrest under the American game laws, point with derision to the methods in vogue in "the land of the free." They seem to delight in the quotation.

In every civilized country, excepting in America, it is legal to take wild fowl on public waters and to sell them as food just as fish are taken in public waters and sold as food. Granting there

is a sentiment against this, we insist there should be no objection to taking birds for propagation.

In all civilized countries, excepting in America, it is legal to take wild fowl alive for breeding purposes and it is not at all strange that gamekeepers who have heard of "The land of the free" should imagine they had the same freedom in America which they enjoyed at home. It is not strange where they are employed to rear game birds that they should take up their own fowl and also a few migrants to help out the breeding operations. We appreciate their amazement that such transactions should be placed on the same basis as real crimes, murder, theft, burglary, etc. People who observe such performances of the game police have ceased to wonder why we have no game to eat and very little to look at, in many states.

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Uniformity of Criminal Laws.

Blackstone and all the legal writers since the date of his famous commentaries have said that criminal laws should be uniform. It certainly is evident that any transaction should not be criminal in one place and not in another. No one thought of Mr. McIlhenny as a bad criminal when he sent his story to The Game Breeder about trapping the same ducks twice in Louisiana; the second time after they had returned from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he had sent them to a Chicago friend who is a game breeder. Why should we think of the Long Island farmer, recently raided, as a criminal? Every one we have heard

mention the matter (and there are a great many), has called it an outrage, just as every one said, "outrage," when citizens who brought their quail home from the South were raided by the same force.

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An Excellent Commissioner.

Fortunately New York has an excellent State Game Officer. Mr. Pratt promptly conceded that the papers were right in denouncing the arrest of Sportsmen returning home with their game. He, no doubt, will at once see the absurdity of permitting every one to absolutely destroy hundreds of birds every season and of arresting reputable producers when they take a few birds alive for propagation.

The dignity (possibly we should say indignity) of the law will be well preserved by a fine of 50 cents; 25 cents would seem even better, if any attempt is ever made to collect a fine. The case is important since it should result in an amendment to the laws permitting and encouraging food production on the farms, with at least as much freedom as there is in all civilized countries, excepting in America.

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A Successful Meeting.

The Annual Conference on Game Breeding, at the Waldorf-Astoria, N. Y., was interesting and successful. A number of interesting papers were read: One of the most interesting was one by Mac Vicar in which the French system of partridge rearing was referred to.

Mr. F. C. Walcott made the opening address. Duncan Dunn, Superintendent of the New York Jersey State Game Farm, made a report on pheasant breeding.

Mr. E. A. Quarles described pheasant breeding at the New Jersey and New York State farms. His remarks were illustrated with moving pictures.

Mr. E. A. McIlhenny told "How to Distinguish the Pure Bred Mallard." Hon. J. B. Harkin described Conservation work in Canada's Great National Parks.

Braddford Scudder spoke on the Prac-

tical Application of the Science of Conservation to Large Estates. Dr. A. K. Fisher discussed, The Relation of Raptorial Birds to Game. Other speakers were Dr. John C. Phillips, who described the methods of the dispersal of Hand-reared Quail. Robert Sterling Yard who spoke of the Protection of Game in our National Parks; E. C. Henshaw who discussed Efficiency in the Administration of Game Laws.

The dinner in the evening was good, of course. No bad dinners are served at the Waldorf. The pictures by McIlhenny and Finley were wonderful and delighted the diners.

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Why the Oyster Escaped.

The Times, Boonsboro, Md., citing a "ringing appeal" of the Conservation Commission, says:

The oyster is stationary. If it moved from State to State, Uncle Sam would have long ago extended his strong right arm to save the oyster. The same is true of terrapin. Its home is local. It does not wander beyond State lines. Hence its lack of strong protection. Hence, also its partial destruction.

The people who enjoy eating oysters well may give thanks! How fortunate it is that it is "stationary!" See the articles about non-stationary wild ducks in England and Holland in this issue. Wild ducks are as cheap as oysters in all the markets of the civilized world excepting in America. More laws, fewer game birds!

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Quail for Anne Arundel.

Within the next few weeks 600 birds that cost Anne Arundel county \$2 apiece will be liberated in various sections of the country with a view to increasing the number of wild fowl. The birds are known as "Mexican Boby Whites," and are the first of a number to be purchased by the county out of funds obtained from the gunners' licenses issued last year. The year was a record-breaker for the county in that respect and after appropriating about \$1,200 for the first consignment of birds the county had nearly \$2,000 remaining of the license fund. A bill passed by the legislature of 1916 makes possible the use of the

proceeds for that purpose, and the county is now negotiating with dealers in Pennsylvania with a view of getting a new variety of birds, but more of the Bob Whites are to be ordered as soon as the effects of the liberation of the first consignment are noted. The plan has been adopted in other States for replenishing the supply of wild fowl, and it is believed that it will work satisfactorily in the county.—The Times, Boonsboro, Md.

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The Maine Breeders' Bill.

One of our Maine readers sends us a copy of the proposed Game Breeders' Law for Maine. It appears our abstracts of this bill printed last month from Maine woods was wrong in stating the amount of the proposed license. The bill appears to have been amended so as to provide for a \$2.00 license instead of a \$25 fine for breeding game. Only twenty-five acres of the farm can be used as a game pasture, more than this appears to be criminal. The Maine farmers will wake up some day and put an end to such nonsense. Possibly they may put the wild duck and the deer on the song bird list as a matter of retaliation. The farmers certainly have pushed protection to the limit in Ohio.

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Wild Ducks in Ohio.

Young Scott Jordon, son of an employe at the Driving Park and two or three other boys recently were the principals in a wild duck "hunting story" decidedly out of the ordinary. A small flock of splendid wild mallard ducks passed the summer in a pool at the driving park and the employes there made it a point to see that they were undisturbed. This fall they liked things so well that they decided to pass the winter at the same spot, but during the recent cold snap, took a "flyer" and disappeared for some days.

While the boys were skating on the pool, in came the ducks and dropped down right on the ice although there was a small portion of the water that had not completely frozen over. It

seemed to be a direct challenge to the boys and they at once started on their skates after the half wild birds and quickly ran them down before they could take wing, seven ducks being captured after some lively twisting and swift turning. They are now at the driving park with their wings clipped and seem to be just as contented as the tame and noisy barn yard variety.—Sportsmen's Review.

—♦—

Reducing the Food Bill.

One of our Maryland members writes for information as to how to reduce the cost of feeding hand reared wild ducks, now that the prices for corn and other grain are high.

Capt. Aymer Maxwell, an English authority, says that Mr. Bell, the duck keeper at Netherby, who probably knows more of the ways of our commoner ducks from a practical point of view than any other man living, "has very materially reduced his food bill—always a formidable item where ducks are concerned—by inducing his grown ducks to live largely on pulped turnips. As he put it to the writer, 'Your duck is a gorgeous person, and only wants to fill himself with something; so we make him gorge himself on what we can get.'"

One of our large western breeders of wild ducks, who called recently on The Game Breeder, said that he plants buckwheat in his orchard and field and lets his ducks eat the growing sprouts and later the standing grain. The birds have a wide range and visit in many fields, returning when they are called to be fed in the afternoon. Where there are suitable marshes and ponds on preserves and game farms these should be planted with some of the many natural foods advertised by the dealers.

The ducks can be fed on acorns and grain to advantage a short time before they are shot or marketed, but sportsmen must always remember that too much corn makes slow birds, and the more they are compelled to find their own living and the wider their range, where the preserve is a big one, the better.

There is a danger, of course, of some

of the birds deserting, but if they are accustomed to come to a good meal of grain and acorns late in the day, and are never disappointed, they will not be inclined to depart, if the shooting be properly managed, until the waters begin to freeze, before which time (and in fact before the shooting begins) the stock birds for the following season should be caught up and penned after having their wings clipped.

We shall be glad to hear from our readers who can tell us how they reduce their food bill, for this is, as Mr. Bell says, always a formidable item.

A Big Mail.

It has been impossible for the editors of The Game Breeder to answer their mail promptly. The secretary of the society was ordered out with the Naval Militia some weeks ago; an assistant has been away on account of illness and correspondents who have not had prompt answers to their letters will kindly excuse the delay.

The reorganization of The Game Guild will relieve other departments of the society and we hope soon to have extra clerical help. Hundreds of requests for advice are coming all the time from all of the States and from the Canadian Provinces. The mail of the publication of the society evidently is much heavier than that of an ordinary story magazine and we trust our readers will subscribe liberally to the Guild in order that the work of all departments of the society may be promptly handled.

The Book Department.

The demand for books on game breeding and for Our Feathered Game has increased rapidly and we have repeatedly been entirely sold out. Twice recently the publishers of "Our Feathered Game" have reported that they could not fill our orders. We will have some new copies of this book before this issue goes to press and all orders on file will be filled in the order in which they were received.

The demand for books is evidence of

the rapid growth of the new industry. Dr. Job's Book on "The Propagation of Wild Birds and "Our Wild Fowl and Waders" by the editor of The Game Breeder continue to be the "best sellers."

Grouse Clubs.

Clubs for prairie grouse easily can be formed in many of the Western States to keep the grouse shooting good just as the quail shooting is kept up in the South. Some of the prairie States now have game breeders' laws permitting preserve owners to breed grouse and all other species of game and the gun clubs in the West well may undertake the breeding of grouse and quail in protected fields just as the quail are bred in the South. Many Western farmers whose lands are posted against all shooting will be willing no doubt to have the game produced on their lands provided they receive proper compensation for the shooting.

Where game is bred wild in the fields the cost of production is small and the club dues can be kept down. Sportsmen are beginning to find upland game shooting more interesting than the "sport alluring" and enjoy having something to take home after the shoot. Since the abundant game overflows from the preserve they provide sport for others as well as themselves. We are always glad to hear about the formation of clubs to preserve the vanishing prairie grouse.

A Good Word for the Airedale.

Mr. MacVicar, game keeper for the Chiles-Walcott preserve, said in answer to the question, What kind of dog was the best for a game keeper, that he preferred the airedale; that it was a good, lively, strong dog well able to handle cats and other vermin when he encountered them. It occurred to us that there is a good advertisement of airedales in The Game Breeder, and we wondered if the members of the Conservation Society are buying these dogs as they should. At all events it is a good thing to know where they can get good airedales.

PRAIRIE GROUSE AND SHARPTAILS.

Third Paper.

By D. W. HUNTINGTON.

I have re-visited favorite shooting grounds, where a few years ago it was an easy matter to shoot fifty or a hundred prairie grouse or sharp-tail grouse in a day, and have found the birds entirely or very nearly exterminated. The birds are extinct in entire States where easily they can be made abundant. In places where vast areas are plowed and where no cover or food is left for the birds, they are exposed to their natural enemies and must migrate or starve. Quickly the grouse have vanished from such areas and it would be impossible to restore them without first planting some cover and natural foods.

The prairie grouse should be tremendously abundant from Texas and Louisiana north to the Dakotas and Montana and from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana west to the great plains. Its northern relative, the sharp-tailed grouse, once was plentiful in Illinois and Nebraska and northward to Canada, where it still is plentiful in regions where the covers and foods have not been destroyed. Sharp-tails also were plentiful in California and there are many remaining in parts of Oregon and Washington. The birds, however, must vanish here, as elsewhere, when the land is plowed and the covers and foods are destroyed. It is important to give these birds some practical protection and to look after them properly not only in places where they still occur but in places where easily they can be restored.

The late Sylvester D. Judd, in a bulletin issued by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1905, says: "The restocking of suitable places in the former range of the prairie hen and even the former range of the heath hen in the coast-region of Virginia and Maryland appears to be quite practicable. The significance of an experiment made

by Audubon many years ago at Henderson, Ky., is of special interest in this connection. In the fall he secured 60 prairie hens and, clipping their wings, turned them loose in his garden and orchard, which contained about 4 acres. The birds quickly became tame and walked about the garden like so many tame fowls, mingling occasionally with the domestic poultry. The importance of the prairie hen as a destroyer of weeds and insects has been demonstrated, and its value as a food and game bird is well known. As the bird possesses such good qualities and as proper efforts for its re-introduction into parts of its former range will almost certainly be successful, it is to be hoped the undertaking will not be long delayed. It is unquestionable that the presence of this bird will add appreciably to the value of any farm."

The reason why the farmers and sportsmen have done little or nothing to restore the birds and to keep them plentiful may be found in the game laws, which, it has been well said, "tend to protect the game off the face of the earth." How can we expect a farmer to devote any of the land needed for cover and food to the grouse if the laws prevent his selling a bird or its eggs and even prohibit his having a grouse for dinner. Sportsmen, of course, will not rent the land and plant the covers and foods essential to the birds' existence so long as they are prevented from shooting or eating a bird. It is fortunate that the laws have been amended in many states so that profitable grouse breeding is no longer a criminal offense and we may expect a rapid increase in the number of the birds in the fields and in the markets as soon as the people realize what they can do and learn how to do it.

Dr. Judd was quite right in saying,

"the grouse will add appreciably to the value of any farm." Quickly they will double the value and in fact any farm which has an abundance of grouse easily can be sold for several times its present value or the shooting can be rented for a substantial amount in the States which have laws permitting the profitable breeding of game. Sport has nothing to fear since the shooting necessarily is prohibited in most of the States where it still is illegal to look after the birds profitably.

The food habits of the prairie grouse and the sharp-tailed grouse are very similar. Both birds are highly insectivorous in the Spring and Summer and in places where strips of cover and food are planted and left standing there always will be plenty of insects during the period when insects are eaten. Grasshoppers, Rocky Mountain locusts, beetles and many other insects common on the prairie farms are eaten and the grouse breeder need have no fear of insects being sufficiently plentiful, until the grouse become over-abundant.

In the fall and winter the grouse subsist largely upon vegetable food: fruit, leaves, flowers and shoots, seeds and grain. In places where wheat and other grains are grown extensively the birds will find much food in the stubbles after the harvest. They are partial to corn and when abundant they should be fed some extra grain in the winter when the natural foods are largely buried beneath the snow. Corn is said to be the favorite cereal and this undoubtedly is the best winter food. It can be fed on the cob to advantage and a safe place to feed is in briar patches where vermin will find it difficult to take the birds when feeding. The grouse are very fond of fruit. Blackberries afford not only food but excellent cover. Apples, both the buds and the fruit, are eaten, and a few apple trees planted in the area reserved for the grouse will be appreciated and will tend to keep the birds at home. The grouse have a marked taste for flowers: rosebuds and thousands of golden-rod heads have been found in the stomachs of the birds. The rose hips are an excellent winter food

which can be taken above the snow and the hard hips are said to contain grit as well as food. Sunflowers are an excellent food. Red and white clover and the seeds of many weeds and grasses also are eaten. Sumac is a good winter food. Wild cherries, wild grapes, strawberries and other berries will tend to make the ground attractive and prevent straying.

I am quite sure two of the most important foods are the wild rose and the sunflower. Blackberries and other briar are important covers, as well as foods. The greater variety and abundance of food the better, of course, and many seed-bearing weeds and grasses surely will make their appearance on the ground reserved for the birds.

An excellent plan to hold the birds evenly distributed on a large area would be to plant double hedges of cover between the fields and across the center of some of the large fields such as are common in the prairie States. A double row of berry briars, wild rose and sumacs, with an intervening strip of grass, including clover, weeds and plenty of sunflowers and golden-rod will be ample to hold a big head of grouse and afford them safe covers and foods during the time when all the foods in the fields are turned under by the plow. The land set aside for the birds can be made to yield more money (from grouse and eggs) with less labor, after the hedges are once made, than any crop which can be grown on the reserved area.

Where there is a slough or stream running through the farm the weeds, rushes and wild rice will make excellent covers and furnish some food. If a row of briars, wild roses, sumacs, a few apple trees and wild grapes and any of the other foods be planted as a border to the tall cover of the slough the place will be unusually safe and attractive and large numbers of grouse easily can be reared in a wild state.

The natural enemies of the grouse should be extirpated as far as possible, and if their numbers be fairly well kept down the birds easily can be made far more abundant than they ever were. They should produce thousands of dollars every year and should not interfere with

the farming of all of the land excepting the narrow strips and swampy places left for safe covers and feeding grounds. In places where both corn and wheat are grown it will be found to be advantageous to plant alternate fields of each grain. The grouse enjoy the shade and concealment afforded by the growing corn, but the hedges and nesting sites above described should also be maintained since neither the corn field nor the wheat field are habitable for a period during and after the plowing.

In Hungary, where tens of thousands of grey partridges are reared and sold on some of the larger places every season, corn and wheat or other small grain are planted in alternating strips. The number of quail that can be produced on a grouse preserve will be surprising, and will add materially to the value of the farm. The birds are harmonious and I have seen both quail and prairie

grouse very abundant in the same field before the days of intensive farming with nothing but a wire fence to divide the fields.

It is highly important to keep down the foxes, snakes, hawks, crows and other natural enemies of the grouse, and the cats, dogs and rats should not be permitted to take birds or eggs. It is attention to these matters which will make and keep the birds plentiful on lands which are made habitable. A keeper who knows how to shoot and to trap vermin easily can protect twelve or fifteen hundred acres and the game reared will show a splendid profit after paying the wages of the keeper.

Any farm boy who knows how to shoot and trap easily can make a few thousand dollars a year by looking after the grouse and quail on a large prairie farm in States where it is not a crime to produce grouse and quail for profit.



BLACK SIBERIAN HARES AND OTHER "FUR RABBITS"

The U. S. Department of Agriculture during the past few months has received many inquiries regarding the merits of certain rabbits that have been extensively advertised as fur producers. Replies to such inquiries have stated that the demand for rabbit fur is such as to make it pay to save the pelts of domestic rabbits killed for food, but that raising rabbits for the fur alone would be unprofitable with any known breed. Some facts about the trade in rabbit skins will be of interest in this connection.

More skins of rabbits are collected and sold annually than of all other fur animals combined. Before the present war, Great Britain imported each year from 70,000,000 to 90,000,000 skins; while the home production added 30,000,000 more. The imported supply came from Australia and the nearer European countries. France, Belgium, Germany, the United States, and other

countries also use large quantities of this fur. The bulk of it is sold in bales, bringing from 10 cents to 50 cents a pound, dependent on color and quality. The better class of skins sell by the dozen, bringing from 50 cents to \$1, that is, less than 10 cents each.

Baled rabbit furs are bought largely for felting purposes, the fur being made into cloth or coarse hats, while the skins are utilized for manufacturing glue. Fine hats are made of nutria (the fur of the South American coypu) or of nutria and rabbit fur mixed. The fur of the common wild rabbits of America does not felt well and is in slight demand. Whole skins of these animals seldom sell for more than 1 or 2 cents each.

The better kinds of rabbit skins are used for making fur garments, which, when made up, are commonly sold as "cony," but often under other trade names. White skins are made up in

imitation of arctic fox, or, sheared, in imitation of ermine. Gray rabbits are dyed brown or black and become "Baltic black fox" or "Baltic brown fox"; seal-dyed, they become "inland seal," "electric seal," "coast seal" or "near-seal." Reputable furriers avoid such names, or, if they use them, frankly explain that the goods are coney or rabbit. These garments, while handsome and comfortable, have little durability and are therefore cheap.

Statements to the effect that certain breeds of rabbits produce pelts of high market value are unwarranted. The long-haired breeds, such as the Angora and the Siberian (both white animals) have poor pelts and the hairs are not well set in the skins. The short-haired varieties are much alike as to strength of pelts, but vary considerably in color. The English black-and-white has striking colors that might appeal to the fancy of individual wearers of fur garments, but they are not popular in the fur trade. Skins of piebald rabbits of any shade sell for less than those of solid colors. There is also a difference in quality of fur between hutch rabbits and those kept in the open, the latter having the better pelts.

Besides exaggerated statements as to value of fur, advertisements of fur rabbits contain totally false claims as to the origin of animals offered for sale. This practice is not a new one, for about 60 years ago, when the now well-known Himalayan rabbit was first bred in England, the statement that it originated in the Himalayan Mountains was believed by a fellow of the Zoological Society of London, who described and figured the animal in the society's journal as a new species. Rabbits recently advertised as fur animals are said to have been imported directly from Siberia in one instance, and from Mongolia in another. The further statement that the animals exist in these countries in a wild state is advanced. As a matter of fact well known to naturalists no wild rabbits occur in either country and the few species of hares found there are small gray ani-

mals that turn white in winter. The support of the fanciful testimony of an unknown naturalist who claims to have resided in Siberia and to have observed the animals in the wild state does not help the case.

So far as the "black Siberian hare" is concerned, any experienced breeder of rabbits can readily identify the animals at first sight. They are undoubtedly the common European rabbit of the Flemish giant breed. In this variety black is a constantly recurring color and sometimes appears among litters of the purest-bred strain. These black individuals are usually regarded by fanciers as undesirable and are discarded. However, if the black stock be chosen for reproduction, a black strain of Flemish giants is obtained in which bluish gray individuals recur from time to time, as several breeders in the United States have proved. Such a strain of Flemish giants is now offered as a new species imported directly from Siberia, a country without rabbits unless carried there as domestic animals.

It is not to be inferred, however, that black Flemish giant rabbits have no fur value. On the contrary, owing to their great size and solid color, the skins will probably sell for more than those of most other breeds. All known breeds of domestic rabbits belong to a single species, the European rabbit, whether they are known as Belgian hare, Flemish giant, Siberian, Himalayan, Dutch, Japanese, Kai-Gai, or any other name, and the attempt to palm any of them upon the public as a new species imported from a portion of the world not inhabited by rabbits is wholly unwarranted and to be severely condemned.

Anti-Cat.

There seems to have been an epidemic of anti-cat legislation this season. The Oneida Community, Ltd., Oneida, N. Y., offers a better remedy for cats than legislation. See advertisement in this issue.

Subscribe to The Game Breeder, \$1.00 a year.

MORE ABOUT THE SIBERIAN HARE.

BY MCGILLIVRAY

I liked the Black Flemish Giant, and in May, 1915, purchased some black giants from Gerald O. Newton of Newcastle, Ind.; I also purchased a black giant buck from Mr. Jess McCully and paid for them.

Just in the midst of this slight rabbit fever, a family of Jews brought direct from Siberia, some very large black rabbits, also some skins of the same kind. I examined the skins and was so much impressed with their quality that I bought the rabbits, which were called Siberian hares. I then decided to sell the few Flemish giants I had and the last purchased from Mr. Newton and the buck from Mr. Jess McCully, which I had not yet received owing to some embargo on live animals, coming across the line at that time. I sold the Newton does and the McCully buck to the Renwick Game Farm, without ever bringing them across the line, at a reduced price. I also sold all I had purchased from Mr. Newton that were here.

The Siberian Hare Co. did sell the Renwick Game Farm a trio of these real Siberian rabbits with an agreement that they would be advertised in the booklet on the Siberian hare, hence the Renwick Game Farm's advertisement in the booklet; otherwise the Siberian Hare Co. of Hamilton is not responsible for, is not now, nor never was in any way financially connected with the Renwick Farm.

I knew nothing about the Renwick Game Farm purchasing these black giants from Mr. Newton. I did hear that they were experimenting with black giants and Siberian hares, but I never learned the results.

Now for the Mr. Henshaw of the Biological Survey as to rabbit skins being useless. I am having some of these skins tanned and will send the Department at Washington one for examina-

tion, which beyond all doubt will cause Mr. Henshaw to change his mind as to the value of the skin. As to the Siberian hare being a rabbit and not a hare, I admit I always knew this; but what is the Belgian hare?

I did think when I first got the Siberians, according to the then information I had, that they were indigenous to Siberia, and were wild there; but, later, information and investigation, has caused me to believe that they were imported to Siberia many years ago, and developed there, as the following article from the July number of the "Pet Stock World" explains better than I can:

The Siberian Hare—A Reader's Views.

I have read with interest an article written by my countryman, Mr. Shacknoe, on the Black Siberian Hare. Mr. Shacknoe claims Siberia as the habitat of the animal known in America as the Siberian Hare, while in reality a rabbit (probably the Patagonian rabbit), which was imported into Siberia some sixty years ago, and by human selection taking advantage of the cold climate, it was changed and improved till it reached its present appearance. The slouchy and ugly ears drooping forward, over the eyes, would be straightened up by the coldness of the climate, as do the ears of the lop-eared rabbit when bred for three generations in Siberia.

When black or silver sports were produced they were kept for breeding purposes, and, as like begets like, the whole flock soon became either black or silver gray.

The desire to breed for these colors was actuated by the higher prices their owners would get for their pelts. They also breed from the largest animals, as the flesh of this rabbit is delicious to eat, and the owners wanted more of it.

My theory is that the changes in the animal were made by human selection for personal gain, and it was not caused by the beautiful, scientific, natural selection, aided by large birds of prey, as so profoundly described by Mr. Shacknoe in his article on the natural history of the Siberian Hare. The fact of the matter is that there is no rabbit indigenous to Siberia, and only three hares, all of which are gray in summer and white in winter.

My grandfather, who was a close and care-

ful observer of animals, remembered distinctly when the large Patagonian rabbit was first imported to Siberia. He often explained to me the effect the cold climate had on the drooping ears, and the many other changes that took place from generation to generation as years went on, and now we find Mr. Shacknoe writing it up as a native of Siberia, and giving it the character of a wild hare, when it is really a tame rabbit, a few of which have been turned out to care for themselves and have become semi-wild.

Mr. Shacknoe gives a very interesting story of the way in which this rabbit prepares for her young—their customs and habits in a wild state. Why, this is not peculiar to the Siberian rabbit. Turn the Belgian Hare, or common rabbit, out wild and they would act identically as Mr. Shacknoe describes this rabbit does.

In conversation with a gentleman who turned out a flock of common rabbits on an island in Canada, this gentleman has read Mr. Shacknoe's account of the Siberian in its natural state, and says it is identical as his rabbits acted when turned wild on the island, therefore, there is nothing new—but the nature of any rabbit to act so when turned out wild.

Now, in conclusion, may I say that I have no wish to injure the reputation of my countryman or the business of those who have imported these rabbits to this country, but I wrote to correct the errors in Mr. Shacknoe's article. I have seen some of these rabbits in

this country that were imported from Siberia, and I consider them fairly good specimens, and equal to those I have seen in my native country. I believe they are now superior to all other utility rabbits, as the fur is valuable as well as the flesh, but it must be remembered that their excellent qualities were obtained by breeding in Siberia's cold climate. In this climate the fur will deteriorate equally as fast as it improved in Siberia.

A. GOLDBERG.

In conclusion let me say I will send to the editor of *The Game Breeder* a skin for examination, that your society may compare it with a rabbit skin of this country. This will remove all doubts from your mind that it is merely a common rabbit. It was the examination of the pelt that caused me to discard all other rabbits and breed Siberians.

I would like to explain the motive of this venomous attack on this rabbit—Siberian—but it would take pages, and I am a very busy man, and have many things far more important than answering men, who evidently have very little else to do but read and write detective stories.

THE TRAPPING OF WILD DUCKS.

Capt. Aymer Maxwell, in his chapter on *The Duck*, gives the following account of trapping wild ducks at Netherby, England:

"After all the ingenuity that has been expended on the making of duck decoys* intricate in design, costly to construct and maintain, it is interesting to find that wild duck may be caught by far easier means. Hard by the fine duck decoy at Netherby, carefully planned with its seven pipes of approved pattern, there stands an unpretentious wire cage, which anyone could knock together in an hour, using no more costly material than a few bits of wood, a strip of wire netting, hammer and nails. One side of this simple pen lifts up, and a cylinder

of wire netting, open at both ends, and wide enough to allow free passage to a duck, lies on the ground, leading from the open side to the centre of the pen. For ten days or so the ducks feed gloriously in the open pen, working all around and through the cylinder; then the open side is let down, covering all but the opening of this tube. With evening comes the flight of ducks; they have been used to passing through the innocent looking tube of wire netting with impunity, and soon the pen is full, when, however, they wish to depart, to look for an exit in the centre of the pen never seems to occur to them, and they wander disconsolately up and down the walls of their prison, until with morning comes Mr. Bell, duck keeper at Netherby, to count his captives, cut the wings

*Duck Traps: See description of decoy from "Our Wild Fowl and Waders."

of those who are to be given their lives and alas! to wring the necks of the rest, whose ignominious end is a prelude to their appearance in the market.

The Wild Duck Decoy.

A decoy is simply a piece of water of a certain size, from which radiate shallow, curving channels spanned by crescent shaped supports. The supports sustain net, forming a tunnel, known as a pipe. The number of pipes may be from one to a dozen or so, according to the size of the water. The Wrentham decoy, in Norfolk, has ten pipes, a larger number than that possessed by any other active decoy in the Eastern counties, if not in our islands. Iron supports, their ends firmly embedded in the soil on either side of the channel, are used at the mouth of the pipe and for some distance down, and saplings as the channel narrows. The supports are placed at intervals of about five feet. These arches are usually about twelve feet high and twenty feet wide at the mouth of the pipe. They become smaller and smaller, till at the end of the pipe they are only two feet high; thus when the whole structure is covered with net we have a gradually narrowing and curving pipe, the course of which cannot be seen by the duck till their retreat is cut off. At the end of the pipe is a detachable bag-shaped net known as a tunnel net. The length of a pipe is usually about seventy yards. On the bank of the decoy, and for some way down the convex side of the pipe, are screens

six feet high and covered with rushes, so arranged in eschelon that the decoyman can pursue his tactics without being seen by the birds on the water, and yet can show himself or allow his dog to show itself at any point. The tall screens usually are connected by low ones, over which the dog, commonly known as a "piper," is able to jump without difficulty. Ducks are enticed into the pipes either by means of decoy birds or by the antics of a dog, carefully trained for the work. At last all the lagging fowl of the gathering have entered the pipe. Then without a sound, the decoyman darts back to the mouth of the pipe, where unseen by other bunches of duck on the decoy, he suddenly shows himself to the birds under the net. At the sight of him and his waving handkerchief the trapped birds rise in a cloud and fly up the narrowing pipe. The decoyman, on the bank, follows them at headlong speed. A few moments later he is engaged in extracting his victims, one by one, from the tunnel net and wringing their necks.

A large number of these decoys are operated in England, Wales and Ireland and many wild ducks are procured for the market. The first decoy was set up in the reign of James II. Decoying was practiced in Holland prior to the time of Sir William Woodhouse, who constructed the first English decoy. Fifteen thousand fowl have been taken in a decoy in a season.—DeVisne Shaw cited in "Our Wild Fowl and Waders."

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

The Game Market.

The market for live pheasants which was excellent at the opening of the season made rapid gains and the prices rose rapidly as we predicted they would. Last month common ring-necked and dark necked pheasants sold readily at \$8.00 per pair, and sales were reported

at \$10.00 per pair, which is the highest price ever paid for these birds.

Practically all of the birds offered have been sold and those who have advertised for birds have had few replies the offerings being very small and for the most part consisting of only a few cock birds. There has been an excellent

demand also for aviary species at surprising prices. Many new breeders find the breeding of the golden, silver, Amerherst Reeves and the more costly species interesting and profitable.

Many thousands of ducks, for the most part mallards, near mallards and even puddle ducks have been sold. The prices, however, for ducks have not been as good as they should be. This is due to the fact that large numbers have been produced and there has been much difficulty in getting the food into the best market, New York. Several large preserve owners who reared large numbers of ducks complained about the poor market for the food. Some have reported they would discontinue breeding any, or at least many, ducks since they could not dispose of the food. The breeding of wild turkeys has increased in many States and the demand for these birds has been excellent; birds selling at from \$15 to \$25 each. A number of turkey breeders have written to say that they could not fill all their orders. Several reported that a single advertisement in *The Game Breeder* brought more orders than they could handle. We predict it will not be long before wild turkeys become common in the larger markets since the breeders are increasing their flocks and many new turkey breeders are starting.

Comparatively few native quail have been offered and all were quickly sold at \$25 and \$30 per dozen. The game laws still sadly interfere with the quail industry in many States.

Many thousands of Mexican quail were imported and found a ready sale. A few were offered at \$15 per dozen but soon the price was advanced to \$20 and to \$25. We predict the few birds unsold will sell for \$30 per dozen since the demand always increases rapidly as the breeding season approaches.

A rumor that quail breeding would be prohibited on Long Island has held up a lot of sales which would have been concluded. It seems outrageous that industrious breeders should be threatened by those who are not only opposed to sport but even to food production.

The Egg Market.

Advertisers report that inquiries for eggs began coming earlier than usual this year and thousands of eggs (both pheasant and duck eggs) have been sold for future delivery. The price of common pheasant eggs remains firm at \$25 per hundred. Duck eggs from strong flying birds have been selling for \$20 per hundred. Some breeders have been offering eggs at lower prices. The abundance of ducks, many of them of inferior quality, and the fear that the food markets will remain closed, has had a bad effect on the breeding of ducks and the sale of eggs.

Eggs from true wild mallards are eagerly sought and dealers who can assure the purchasers that their fowl are true wild ducks can easily get \$25 and \$20 for their eggs.

There is a big demand for fresh trapped ducks, both mallards and black ducks, and many breeders are endeavoring to improve the character of their flocks.

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Sales of Day-Old Pheasants.

Many poultrymen in America do a large business in day-old chickens and ducks. The young birds travel long distances safely and have proven to be highly satisfactory.

A short time before the present war the sale of one-day old pheasants was undertaken by an ingenious English game farmer. Capt. Aymer Maxwell says, "he has certainly increased his sphere of utility—and we will hope also of his business—by devising a clever system of supplying live chicks instead of eggs. He discovered by experiment that newly-hatched pheasants packed in the small partitions of simple light boxes covered over with flannel to preserve the normal temperature of the nest not only survived long journeys across country, but arrived strong and lively at their destination." He says he spent an interesting afternoon on the Chiltern Hills last summer watching the packing and dispatch of these day-old chicks, each consignment starting off all com-



Placing Day-Old Pheasants in Breeding Coop.

plete with a hamper of broody hens strapped under the box.

The prices for day-old pheasants are given by Capt. Maxwell in pounds and shillings. In our money they would be:

	Per doz.	Per 100	Per 1000
May delivery	\$4.38	\$35.00	\$325
June 1 to 15.....	3.75	32.50	300
June 16 to 30.....	3.25	27.50	250
July	2.75	22.50	200

The above prices are somewhat over twice the usual prices for pheasant eggs in England and we believe American breeders easily can sell one-day-old pheasants for two and one-half to three times the price of the eggs in America. Pheasant and duck eggs sell for about twice as much in America as they do in England.

During the coming season The Game Conservation Society will have a number of experiments made with one-day-old pheasants and ducks—the birds will be shipped in some cases long distances and records will be kept and published

of the results. The matter will be handled by a sub-committee of the Game Guild, one of the most important committees of the society.

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More Prize Quail.

A LETTER FROM MISS MARY RAHLMAN.

[For the benefit of new members we print this outline of the now celebrated Rahlman case. Miss Rahlman has a pheasantry in California. She secured some quail eggs in irrigated fields when the nests were destroyed and the quail driven off by the water, and she hatched the eggs under hens successfully. A game warden informed her that she had secured the eggs illegally; that she was subject to a large fine, and she referred the matter to the Game Conservation Society, of which she is a member. She was informed that the Society would send her \$300 by telegraph to begin her defense if the claim was pressed, but the California Commissioners wisely decided to give her a permit to keep her quail instead of prosecuting her. As a reward for her courage in opposing nonsense and for her good story about her experiences in breeding the quail the Society awarded her a prize of live quail which were purchased in a state in which permits are issued to take live birds for propagation. The birds arrived safely, according to the following letter, and we have no doubt

Miss Rahlman will make a lot of money selling quail and quail eggs. Her title to the stock birds we sent is perfect, and we doubt if any game law can be devised which will confiscate her property or prevent her industry. Quail descended from this stock never can be put on the song bird list.—EDITOR.]

Editor Game Breeder:

Returning home late one afternoon in the early days of January, from Los Angeles, where I had been for the day placing an exhibit of beautiful pheasants in the Los Angeles poultry show—(the Madison Square Garden of the Pacific)—what a surprise and delight awaited me! I read your message informing me of the splendid quail premium which had been awarded. How deeply this beautiful gift is prized; how thoroughly appreciated, words cannot describe.

These interesting game birds, the charming Bobwhites of the land far away over the mountains, arrived on a wondrous Sunday afternoon—a perfect California day. What must have been their surprise to find themselves in a land of summer where the beauty and fragrance of flowers appear on nature's menu instead of snow and blizzards.

As they were permitted to view their new surroundings their familiar call, "bobwhite, bobwhite," came to us bringing to memory a beautiful picture. Far away beyond the snow-clad Rockies lies the dear old home of our childhood, surrounded by meadows and in season by fields of ripening grain where the Bobwhites roam at will.

A sweet wild call came in answer to the birds from our California quail. The scene changed and again my surroundings were orange groves, palms and blooming flowers and over all the warm beautiful sunshine of sunny southern California.

Again I thank you for all your courtesies, kindnesses and for the loyal support and encouragement which you have given me.

I am hoping when the present legislature closes that the unpopular game laws will belong to the dim long ago.

Very truly yours,
California. MARY RAHLMAN.

An Enthusiastic Letter.

Why in the name of thunder didn't you send me a copy of The Game Breeder months ago. I have been losing the best thing out. It is just what I have wanted to see for many years.

It is the best yet, and herein is one "plunk" for the subscription.

If you would get by the neck those who are "groping in the dark" about game and breeding methods you surely would not have the least trouble in making America the biggest game country in the world, and it can be done through such a publication as yours.

I would not miss a copy for three times the price. It is a good thing—push it along. I shall send you some photographs from our preserve and a short article on breeding game, giving my experience.

RANDALL WILLET.

P. S.—As to the mallards on front cover: these are not first class birds, such as we want for shooting. If I judge not wrong, they are domestic barnyard crosses. At any rate they don't belong to "the 400."

[Glad to hear you like The Game Breeder and approve of its policy. Especially glad to have you volunteer to write your experiences in game breeding. You will stand a good chance of getting a live game prize. America rapidly is becoming a big game producing country. New breeders join us every day and many of them send us new subscribers.—EDITOR.]

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Orders Still Coming.

Editor Game Breeder:

I am still receiving inquiries regarding pheasants in reply to my small advertisement in The Game Breeder last fall, although the last of them were sold long ago.

Pheasants seem to be wanted by the hundreds.

Kansas.

W. N. HASTELL.

[Thousands of pheasants were shot and eaten last fall by members of the Game Conservation Society, and it is due to the excellent shooting on many places that the demand and the prices keep up. You will be interested to learn that pheasants have been selling for \$8 and \$10 per pair, the highest prices ever known.—EDITOR.]

Editor Game Breeder:

I will be very much obliged if you can let me know where I should be able to get a few couple of Wild *English* Rabbits. I do not require Belgian hares, cotton tails or jack rabbits.

Yours truly,

GEORGE MILWARD.

Wyoming.

Write to our advertisers.

Abercrombie.

The Game Breeder.

David T. Abercrombie, naturalist, angler, hunter and all-around sportsman, has joined the sporting goods house of Baker, Murray & Imbrie, Inc., at 10-15-17 Warren Street, New York, with the official title of vice-president.

David Abercrombie's name is known wherever two sportsmen gather. His years of experience in the woods of this country, in the lonely places of Newfoundland and Labrador, in the steaming South American tropics, have given him a wealth of woodcraft that makes him an unquestioned authority on all outdoor affairs.

Mr. Abercrombie will have charge of all the camp goods, clothing, tents and fishing tackle department of Baker, Murray & Imbrie, Inc.

Patrons of the store may receive advice from him on all those perplexing questions of proper outfitting that beset every expedition, large or small.

When Theodore Roosevelt was planning his South American expedition, which was noted for the thoroughness with which it was equipped, he called David Abercrombie in to give him the benefit of his years of experience.

The Ziegler Polar and Relief Expeditions were both equipped by Mr. Abercrombie, and he was outfitter for the United States Department of State for many years, and has served the Canadian Government in the same capacity.

In an official statement issued by Baker, Murray & Imbrie, Inc., announcing the appointment of David Abercrombie, the following appears:

"It is a privilege for us to have a David Abercrombie as a working companion, with his ripened experience and knowledge, with his rare temperament and enthusiasm, with his mature devotion to big things. It is splendid for us to be able to say: 'Sportsmen—our Mr. Abercrombie!'"

Yours faithfully,

BAKER, MURRAY & IMBRIE, Inc.

W. F. CASEY,

Advertising Department.

More Traps and Fewer Cats.—See advertisement of the Oneida Community, Ltd., in this issue.

Outings and Innings.

LIKELY.

Judge—Officer, what's the matter with the prisoner—tell her to stop that crying—she's been at it fifteen minutes (more sobs).

Officer—Please, sir, I'm a'thinking she wants to be bailed out.—Nebraska Awgwan.

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HAPPY CHILDHOOD.

A small boy seated on the curb by a telephone pole, with a tin can by his side, attracted the attention of an old gentleman who happened to be passing.

"Going fishing?" he inquired, good-naturedly.

"Nope," the youngster replied. "Take a peek in there."

An investigation showed the can to be partly filled with caterpillars of the tussock moth.

"What in the world are you doing with them?"

"They crawl up trees and eat off the leaves."

"So I understand."

"Well, I'm fooling a few of them."

"How?"

"Sending 'em up this telephone pole."—Judge.

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HUMOROUS SALLY.

"Your cousin Sarah is such a volatile creature."

"Yes; we call her Sal Volatile."—Boston Transcript.

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PERPLEXED.

Inquisitive Incubator Chick—Say, do they figure your birthday from the day you're laid or the day you're hatched?—

Betrayed by a Bark.

Max Ritter, Township Assessor of Pigeon Township, Evansville, tells this one:

"Have you a dog?" asked a special tax assessor of an Evansville woman.

"No, sir," was the woman's answer.

Then from the kitchen came: "Bow-wow, gruff-gruff."

"Then that is your kitten?" asked the assessor.—Indianapolis News.

THE BLACKHEAD DISEASE.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE.

With each year of experimental work on the blackhead disease conducted at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, it has become increasingly evident that this destructive malady of turkeys is not an infectious or communicable disease, but a disease of captivity, a disease of management. With this recognition, the question of prevention becomes more largely an ecological problem to be solved by biological methods. This does not necessarily mean that the question has become easier of solution, but it does mean that the experimental attack can now be made upon definite and probably vulnerable points in the disease chains, whereas in the past, the efforts have necessarily been more at random and, taken as a whole, not focussed upon what now is considered the most important phase of the problem of prophylaxis. Thus, though not yet solved, the problem has been considerably narrowed in its scope; and as a result more intensive study upon the fundamental features is made possible.

Looking at the matter in this light, the problem of the feeding and management of turkeys with reference to the prevention of blackhead becomes the most important phase of the study. It becomes an attempt, not to prevent the entrance of the blackhead parasites, for this is now known to be impossible; not the killing of the parasites after they have entered the intestinal tract, for this, in the light of our present knowledge, is probably impracticable; *it is the attempt to control the development of the parasites in the intestinal canal, and by suitable feeding methods to prevent the invasion of the tissues.* What must now be learned is how various food substances, both qualitatively and quantitatively considered, affect the development of the blackhead parasites in the young turkey. This can be ascertained

only by carefully devised feeding experiments accompanied by microscopical examinations of the eliminated products of living birds, and of the intestinal and cecal content of those that die.

But while this work is in progress, there are certain general phases of the subject of management which may advantageously be considered with relation to their bearing upon the raising of turkeys.

At the time of the preparation of the former Extension Bulletin* it was not impossible, at least on the basis of any experimental work then conducted, to make recommendations regarding the feeding and management of turkeys on free range. Since the publication of the earlier bulletin, however, further results have been obtained from a study and observation of methods that are especially adapted to range conditions in contrast to methods employed in yards and pens. Although definite conclusions may not be drawn on the basis of so short a study of this phase of the blackhead problem, the greater popular interest which attaches to this method of rearing, together with the large number of inquiries received at the R. I. State College regarding field management as opposed to pen management, make it advisable to present at this time a brief consideration of several points of management, including nesting, incubation of the eggs and the brooding and feeding of the young poults raised on range. It should not be construed from the following paragraphs that the blackhead problem is yet solved or that the plan of rearing now presented is the best plan that can be devised. In connection with the nesting and brooding alone, there are probably several good methods which would be successful enough in themselves if the blackhead disease could be prevented. It has now become clear that

whether the young poults succumb to the disease or grow to maturity, depends upon the method of feeding more than upon any other factor; it is therefore this phase of the subject that will receive special consideration in this bulletin. Eventually there will be brought together in a single publication all that can be recommended, as a result of the long-continued studies at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, for the prevention of the disease.

THE NATURE OF THE DISEASE AND METHODS OF DIAGNOSIS.

Although it is probable that at least 95 per cent. of the turkeys that die before the age of six months succumb to blackhead, it is always desirable for the poultryman to be able to recognize the presence of the malady in his flock. Although turkeys are susceptible to blackhead at all ages, the greatest mortality is among the young. Cases seldom appear before the age of two weeks, while the most critical period begins when the birds are about five weeks old. Old birds, though showing more resistance, often manifest the disease in semichronic form. In the young acute manifestations only are observed. The disease usually runs a rapid course; birds under six to eight weeks old are seldom seen to be ill for more than four to eight days and recovery probably never occurs. Old turkeys, however, may sometimes manifest symptoms for months and recovery may occasionally take place.

The chief symptoms of blackhead are lethargy, isolation from companions in the flock, loss of appetite, muscular weakness (drooping wings) and emaciation. The head does not necessarily turn black, though it may become discolored. Diarrhoea is usually present. But, since these symptoms are not characteristic of blackhead alone, the diagnosis can most safely be based upon definite and unmistakable changes in some of the internal organs. This involves a post mortem examination of one of the sick poults.*

The chief pathological changes involve lesions in the ceca, or "blind pouches"

of the intestine and in the liver. The ceca are enlarged and inflamed. Sometimes only one cecum is involved, sometimes both, and sometimes only a part of one. The walls are greatly thickened and frequently contain a yellowish cheesy core, with scarcely any central canal remaining visible. Sometimes the ceca are fused together, or attached to the folds of adjacent intestine. Sometimes the necrotic cecal wall ruptures, causing peritonitis.

The gross pathological changes in the liver involve chiefly the formation of necrotic areas which may be deep or superficial, large or small, gray or yellow, round or irregular, discrete or confluent. The centers are usually slightly depressed. Sometimes the liver lesions appear alone, sometimes the cecal lesions occur alone, and sometimes both appear together. No other disease of turkeys produces similar changes in these organs.

These features are sufficient to enable the poultryman to recognize the presence of the disease in his stock and we may now turn directly to a consideration of the problems of management and feeding.

NATURE OF THE RANGE.

The ideal turkey range consists of a high, open and somewhat rolling pasture land, bordered on one side at least by woods and having a thin overgrowth of grass, with brush and brier patches along the walls. The soil should be light and well drained, and the area should by preference have a southerly slope. A few low branched trees, for roosting purposes and shade, and a brook or spring add value. If foxes are a menace, the area should be fenced. The size of the range will depend upon the number of turkeys to be raised. On the whole, better results can be obtained on a small fenced range, not far from the house, than on an unlimited range extending to remote districts. A fenced range consisting of about six acres of field or pasture devoted exclusively to the birds is sufficiently large for the raising of about one hundred poults to the age of six months.

(To be continued.)

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TWO SIMILAR CASES.

The attempt to collect a fine in New York because a breeder took a few wild ducks for breeding purposes when he was trapping his own ducks is very similar to the attempt in California to collect a big fine from Miss Mary Rahlman because she took some quail eggs for the purpose of producing a lot of quail. The California Commission handled their case properly and collected no fine. We hope the New York Conservation Commissioner will see the absurdity of a fine in order to prevent food production. The law, of course, should be amended to end absurdity.

QUAIL BREEDING.

It is gratifying to have reports of the safe arrival of the quail which our society has been giving as prizes to some of its members. We hope during the year to be able to place some quail in the hands of skilled breeders in every State excepting the States which regard the quail as a songbird and unsuitable for food. Farms, of course, will be more valuable in the free States than they will be in prohibition States and when the farmers observe the difference in value the quail again may be restored to the food-bird list where Audubon placed it, and where all real naturalists say it should be placed.

THE TITLE TO GAME.

In most parts of the country where breeders have game birds which they have reared from stock birds or eggs legally obtained there seems to be no objection to their selling and shipping their birds and eggs, for propagation purposes. Some States permit the taking of wild birds and eggs for propagation and such game also is sold and shipped freely.

The question of title is important and we are pleased to observe that the nonsense which prevented breeders owning birds with a good title from selling and shipping them, rapidly has disappeared.

The courts we are sure will in the future protect food producers in all cases where the title to their game is perfect. This is as it should be. All poultry, including the turkeys, are descended from stock which once was wild and it would seem to be necessary to stop the selling and shipping of poultry if the owners of reared game be prevented from marketing their birds.

In order that our markets quickly can be filled with all species of game it becomes more and more important that breeders should obtain stock birds with a good title. Often we have pointed out the necessity for granting permits to trap the needed stock. Such industry easily can be regulated and it must be evident to everyone that the breeders will produce millions of game birds very quickly provided they can procure the breeding stock. The prices received for birds and eggs are inviting. The outrageous raid on a Long Island game farm, because the keepers took a few wild fowl, when trapping their own birds in order to increase their numbers, should be followed by an amendment to the laws so as to provide for permits to take breeding stock.

Often we have said that it should not be legal for every gunner to destroy hundreds of birds in a season and illegal for a breeder to take any for the purpose of multiplying their numbers.

Some State laws require breeders to procure their stock "from without the

State." A modern legal absurdity is added to many in the books.

THE SIBERIAN HARE.

Our readers will be interested in the Siberian hare matter. It seems to be something like the "Tempest in a Tea Pot."

The matter had already been referred to our Game Guild, the committee which has charge of all controversies between breeders and purchasers in the United States and Canada. If there was an attempt to defraud anybody the Guild soon would make a public report and the Siberian hare advertisements quickly would vanish from The Game Breeder. Those dealing in Siberian hares would not, of course, be permitted to use the mails if it appeared there was any intention to defraud anybody.

The Guild is fearless and it has dealt swift justice to a number of breeders including one who seemed to think it all right to ship tame goose eggs, a little antiquated, to those who ordered and paid for wild turkey eggs. But the Guild is also fair. Without wishing to influence in any way the action of the committee we may say that the mere calling of an animal Siberian or using "Siberian" as a trade name does not in our opinion indicate any intention to deceive. The Arctic freezer is not necessarily manufactured within the Arctic circle. The Australian diamond often is not from Australia. As Mr. McGillivray well says, the Belgian hare is a rabbit just as the Siberian hare is a rabbit, and he might have added that our common little cottontail which lies out on a farm and does not burrow is a small hare and not a rabbit. So we repeat: "What's in a name?" We have no true partridges in America; excepting those recently imported, but the ruffed-grouse of New England long has posed as "the partridge."

We are glad to have the origin of the Siberian hare made known. We are of the opinion that many breeders and in fact most of our breeders long have known that both the Belgian and the Si-

berian hares are true rabbits. We doubt if so many of them were aware that the cottontail has the habits of a hare and well may be considered a small hare.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Game Conservation Soc., Inc.:

Gentlemen,—I am enclosing \$1.00 for subscription for coming year. Keep up the good work and do something for the quail and pheasant breeders of California.

Yours for more game,
JOSEPH KETCHUM.

California.

[We have been doing all we can to help the California breeders, and we are pleased to observe their number is increasing. We get new members in your State every week. You can help us get more. You will soon be strong enough to become exempt from "fool laws," which have prevented production. We invite your attention to Miss Rahlman's good letter in this issue. Soon her pheasantry will be able to send you quail and eggs without fear of the police.—EDITOR.]

=

The Game Conservation Society:

The book, "Our Wild Fowl and Waders," received. I think it a very fine work on the subject.

FRED B. JONES.

Massachusetts.

=

E. A. QUARLES,

Secretary, The Game Protective Association.

Dear Mr. Quarles:

The pass to the dinner of the Protective Society which you assured me had been sent the day before the dinner, I find was duly received at the office of The Game Breeder. I write to thank you for sending it and to express my sincere regret at not being able to attend and see the pictures. An engagement for another dinner took me out of town that evening, and I could not have attended even if I had received the invitation. So many people have asked me why I did not attend that I shall send a copy of this note to the magazine in order that all may know I am heartily in sympathy with the conferring and the dining, and I hope to be with you next time.

You are doing good work.

Very truly yours,
D. W. HUNTINGTON.

More traps, more game, fewer game enemies.

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Announcements inserted under this head in small type for 3 cents per word. If displayed in heavy type, 5 cents per word. No advertisement accepted for less than 30 cents. Postage stamps accepted in payment.

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WILD TURKEYS—For prices see display advertisement in this issue. **W. J. MACKENSEN**, Yardley, Bucks County, Pa.

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I wish to purchase six pair of prairie grouse, also a ruffed grouse. Will pay a good price for same. Address **READER**, care Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York.

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Editor Game Breeder:

I have far more calls for birds now than I can supply. I am sure the many letters I get on the subject of stock birds are due to your magazine, and I appreciate its value greatly.

MARY C. WILKIE.

Virginia.

It might be a good plan for someone to suggest, at this time, to the U. S. Congress that it would be a good idea to have more game for the people to eat and fewer game laws intended to create a vast number of fanciful crimes which are unknown in countries which have game.

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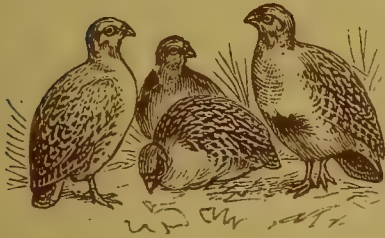
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The Game Breeder has assisted in the formation of many shooting clubs and game farms. We are preparing a booklet on this subject, containing testimonials. Those who desire information on either subject, or information about the new Game Breeders' laws, are requested to write to us. The service is free to those who state that they deal with advertisers in The Game Breeder and who are contributing members of The Game Conservation Society or subscribers to The Game Breeder. Letters should be addressed to the

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My Pheasant pens hold thousands of Pheasants and I am prepared to furnish these birds in large numbers to State departments, individual breeders and preserves.



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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XI

MAY, 1917

No. 2

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

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IN REPLYING PLEASE REFER
TO FILE NUMBER

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ALBANY April 11, 1917

Mr. H. A. Boies,
Millbrook, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your letter under date of April 9th, addressed to Commissioner George D. Pratt, has been referred to the writer for reply.

In view of the fact that the proposition made by the Commission that the judgment taken against you for \$100.00 be reduced to \$20.00 is not agreeable to you, we desire to inform you at this time that this proposition is withdrawn, and that we shall now insist upon the payment of the original judgment of \$100.00.

In view of the stand you are taking in this matter, we are herewith returning the \$1.00, which was to cover cost of license under section 159 sub-division 2 of the conservation law, as we cannot issue you this license under the circumstances.

very truly yours,

George D. Pratt, Commissioner

by

John T. McCormack
Deputy Chief, D.F.G.C.C.

JTM/JTM

H. A. Boies, Millbrook, N. Y., a small farmer with a family of five children, was told by New York game wardens that he was liable for \$285 because he had eight ducks and one pheasant in his possession before he applied for a license. The call by the game wardens was made a week after Mr. Boies applied for and paid for the license.

Mr. Boies was offered his choice of a settlement or a criminal prosecution. The wardens offered to take \$100. Later the asking price was reduced to \$20 since it was evident Mr. Boies could not pay the \$100 promptly.

Still later the price went up again to \$100, "Since \$20 is not agreeable to you," as appears in the above letter. A jury and magistrate at Millbrook decided that \$20 was "not agreeable" to them. Mr. Boies, guilty of a technical violation of law, was directed to pay \$10

The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

More About the Police Raid.

One of our readers who has a big wild duck breeding plant, outside of New York, was interested in our comment on the police raid on the Long Island duck farmer and wrote:

"I am a subscriber to The Game Breeder and I am breeding large numbers of mallard ducks under a keeper I got through an advertisement in your paper.

"In the April number I read about a man in New York State being fined \$15,000 for trapping ducks for breeding purposes. As I understand the case he had permission to trap a number of ducks for breeding purposes, but, in place of doing so, he killed the birds and sold them. May I ask if this is correct?"

This excuse for the outrage, which in effect says that the duck farmer permitted the people to have a sample taste of the game they are said to own, might be regarded as a mitigating circumstance in favor of the force, since no doubt it is a bad crime in some of the United States, including New York, to sell wild ducks.

A letter addressed to the Department at Albany was answered as follows:

Albany, April 20, 1917.

Editor Game Breeder:

I beg to state in reply to your inquiry contained in communication of April 18, that this Department has no information as to Mr. Phipps marketing any black ducks.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE D. PRATT,

Commissioner.

By Llewellyn Legge, Chief D. F. G. C. C.

It would seem, therefore, that the \$15,000 was "lifted" from the duck farmer because an employee took some wild ducks alive in order to make twenty ducks grow where only one duck grew before.

We again say the police, no doubt, were within their rights although to us the rights seem to be wrong. A poorer farmer would have been required to go to jail for life.

We again wish to remark that we believe New York has a good Game Commissioner who can and will see that such outrages be not perpetrated.

He should ask to have the law amended so as to encourage the taking of wild fowl, under proper regulations, for breeding purposes. The country may need the food. Laws encouraging game breeding are popular in other States.

=

Does the Punishment Fit the Crime?

In every civilized country, excepting America, it is legal to take and sell wild ducks as food just as oysters and other fish are taken and sold as food.

Granting that it is a public wrong or crime in some States, including New York, for a game keeper to take fowls for breeding purposes; granting that in the case reported he did so, we insist that the punishment does not fit the crime. It is too big. Many sizes too big.

=

The Asking Price.

We understand, moreover, that the "asking price" of the game police was several times larger than the closing or compromise price. In other words, the owner of the duck farm was threatened with a jail sentence which would keep him behind the bars for life, granting that he had an expectancy of living for fifty or possibly an hundred years. Suppose he could not have raised the \$15,000.

Quail and Boll Weevils.

The question is being asked every day, "Do quail destroy the boll weevil?" Basing my opinion upon information received from both State and Federal authorities on the subject, I would say that the bob-white cannot properly be classed among the birds which feed on the weevil. While reports of boll weevils being found in the crops of quail, in this State recently, might indicate the reverse, the explanation is probably found when it is said few people know a boll weevil when they see it, particularly after it has passed into the stomach of a bird, and other insects are mistaken for them. It is, of course, possible that the quail may acquire an appetite for this bug, but this remains to be proven, and full investigations with that end in view will be made next summer, and the result made public.

=

Other Recent Raids by the Game Wardens.

A number of game breeders, engaged in the laudable industry of food producing, have complained recently that they have been "hounded" by game wardens. One member of The Game Conservation Society writes that he knows of two breeders who have given up their industry on this account.

=

The Boies Case.

Mr. H. A. Boies, of Millbrook, N. Y., writes that some years ago he procured some mallard eggs from Connecticut, by purchase. He raised a lot of ducks and later, having been burned out, he gave the birds he produced by industry to his father-in-law who subsequently raised about twenty-five ducks and ate all of them but eight. These he gave to Mr. Boies who wished again to undertake duck breeding.

Having read in The Game Breeders' magazine that breeders were required to have a license to breed food birds, he applied and paid for a license, sending the money to Albany.

Two game policemen called a week later and asked for \$200 because he had eight tame ducks before he applied for

the license. Later they decided to take \$20. Because this was not paid promptly one, John R. McCormick, who signs his letter George D. Pratt, by John R. McCormick, Deputy Chief, D. F. G. C., wrote a charming letter to the food producer stating that the asking price for the crime referred to would now be \$100, "Since \$20 is not agreeable to you." This letter is printed on another page.

The mallard is not considered an indigenous duck in Connecticut where it is replaced by a near relative, the black duck, entirely different in appearance. The eggs which Mr. Boies purchased some years ago, were, undoubtedly, the eggs of the common green-head of the barn yard, which are owned by farmers in many States.

The State Game Officer never would have been aware that Mr. Boies was producing food on his farm had he not formed the impression that he must have a license. Should he be fined \$200, \$100 or even \$20 because he told the department that he was producing food? Why not issue the license and let it go at that?

=

More Cases.

We have a number of other recent cases where the force pounced upon small pheasant breeders who innocently were producing pheasants without paying the preliminary penalty or fine for so doing.

=

A New Program Suggested.

How would it do in the future, where any reputable farmer is found to have tame birds in his possession and to be innocently producing food to simply say he must conform to the law (absurd as it may seem) and pay the original penalty of \$5.00 for food producing, and to omit the extra \$200 or \$2,000 or whatever the sum may be. The amount depends on the number of stock birds purchased, we are told; but it would seem also to depend somewhat on the mood of the arresting officer or the grand deputy, "D. F." &c., &c.

We believe a suspension of excessive fines for food producing would be desirable during the continuance of the war.

It may seem to be a hardship on the game police, but we all must make some sacrifices. We believe there should be no license fee required to breed game. There is no charge for this in Massachusetts.

=

Another Pheasant Breeder Fined.

A newspaper clipping with the above heading (probably from the Newburgh, N. Y., Journal), sent to The Game Breeder, describes the case of Alex. Kissick, of Savilton.

Alex. Kissick of Savilton is the second man within the past week to fall into the hands of State Game Protector Valentine J. Kohl for keeping pheasants. Mr. Kissick entered a plea of guilty today when arraigned before Justice of the Peace Jacob A. Decker. He was fined \$11. Five fine specimens of English ring-neck pheasants were found at the home of the defendant by Game Protector Kohl, who confiscated the birds.

Ignorance of the law pertaining to the keeping of wild birds was Mr. Kissick's excuse, who was loath to part with them. Three of the birds were the gift of John Masten, whose case was told about in last night's Journal. Mr. Masten paid a fine of \$10 on Tuesday night when arraigned before Justice Decker on a similar charge.

Like Mr. Masten, Mr. Kissick is a great lover of birds and kept them as a hobby. Two of the birds seized by the game protector were raised by Mr. Kissick.

=

A Letter to a Farm Journal.

Another reader of The Game Breeder sends a letter written to a farm paper by an excited reader.

The writer says: "I see in your last issue you suggest raising game birds for profit. I believe it would be profitable if it was legal, but I understand you have no right to raise game birds or have them in your possession."

The writer fears the paper unknowingly is advising readers to become criminals.

We can readily imagine the effect the police raids will have on those who otherwise might undertake a most important food producing industry.

=

More About the "Stationary" Oyster.

The claim was recently made by a Southern state game officer that the reason why the oyster is exempt from

strong protective laws is that it is stationary and not migratory. Hence, he observed, Uncle Sam could not protect the oyster as it was proposed to have migratory fowl protected.

We have seen no reason to change our opinion that it is most fortunate for the people who enjoy eating oysters that this fish is "stationary."

One new thought occurs to us: it is far easier to take a stationary object than it is to take one that moves swiftly. Any farm boy knows that if a rabbit will stop to a whistle, or for other cause, and sit up and still (or stationary) that the shot is far easier than it is when bunny goes sailing across a field with ears laid back.

How is it, therefore, that the stationary oyster, exempt, as it is, from strong protective game laws, survives and is marketed and the swift flying wild ducks are vanishing, although they are not marketed?

The answer is plain: There are no laws preventing the people from looking after the oyster for profit. There are no police raids on the people who trap oysters for sale.

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More Law. No. 413 A.

A Wisconsin reader sends No. 413 A, in Assembly, State of Wisconsin. The bill introduced at the request of the Conservation Commission is intended to prevent the collection and sale of wild duck foods. Fortunately, those who know most about the plants assert that both the seeds and roots should be gathered and marketed. Letters on the subject mailed to Wisconsin should defeat the bill, which is as follows:

No person shall take from the public waters of this State for the purpose of removal, sale or transportation or remove, sell, or transport, to any place beyond the borders of the State, any duck potato, wild celery, or any other plant or plant product except wild rice native in said waters and commonly known to furnish food for game birds.

=

Game Breeding in Rhode Island.

One of our readers writes that a law permitting game breeding in Rhode Island has been enacted. We hope it is a liberal one. Rhode Island has been

a bad state for the industry and the game commissioners recently decided that they were simply police officers without the right to encourage industry.

=

Our Best Guess is Hasenpfeffer.

The following from Bend, Oregon, is from *The World*, N. Y.:

E. D. Prescott of Seattle has been in town, and his mission here was one that holds out possibilities that are staggering, not in the way of increasing the payroll of Bend but in bringing new money into the country.

Mr. Prescott came here to establish a place of business wherein he may negotiate with the farmers, ranchers or others for the purchase of the common, everyday jackrabbit—the one for whose scalp the State pays a bounty—the jackrabbit that pesters the homesteader and rancher.

Mr. Prescott proposes to pay 10 cents for the rabbits, but they must be fresh, and in order to make his staying here worth while it will be necessary for him to arrange to buy at least 300 to 400 rabbits daily. He can use more than that if he can get them. His company is now receiving thousands of rabbits from Idaho and other States in the West, and they can use about 12,000 daily. The rabbits are used in the manufacture of a dish that is popular with German and French people.

Our best guess is that the dish it is proposed to make plentiful is hasenpfeffer.

=

Quail Breeding on Long Island, N. Y.

There were two hearings before Conservation Commissioner Pratt of New York, who will decide if quail shooting and quail breeding are to be prohibited on Long Island. Those who wish to have the shooting prohibited claim that the quail were not as plentiful last season as they should be on account of losses due to climate.

The breeders of quail, who are to a large extent responsible for the occurrence of these birds on the Island, since they have purchased and liberated thousands of quail there, and have properly protected them from their natural enemies, claim that an end should not be put to their industry. Some have purchased and liberated birds this season; others have been inclined not to purchase and rear birds this year because of the doubt about their right to continue to shoot and eat the food produced.

A proper solution of the matter would be to defer any action until the laws can be amended so as to permit profitable quail breeding on the Island and to distinguish the abundant game produced by industry from the wild or state game which vanishes because no one looks after it and provides the proper foods and covers which are necessary for its existence. Many thousands of quail are reared on Long Island in protected fields. We have reared several hundred in a season on one farm from stock birds purchased in another state.

We can hardly believe just at this time such industry will be prohibited.

We believe if it is that it may be many years before anyone will again undertake to look after the quail in New York State. We fear that the best sport known to sportsmen may be prohibited forever on the Island as it seems to have been prohibited in other parts of the state.

The hearings were on April 30, at the Board of Trade and Transportation, New York, and May 7, at the Court House, Riverhead, Long Island, N. Y.

=

Good Meat Runs Wild in Dutchess Co., N. Y.

The high cost of living can't be very pressing in the old county of Dutchess, up the river. There is good meat running around wild in that county in the form of jack rabbit, and so superabundant that the natives have appealed to Representative Platt to enlist the services of the Federal Biological Survey.

Movements of Keepers.

David Gordon has gone to the Pabst preserve in Wisconsin. J. H. Wise has accepted the position of head keeper of the Will preserve in New York. M. Rogers has gone to the De Ford preserve.

There are several requests for under-keepers from excellent preserves, including several large clubs.

Subscribe to *The Game Breeder*, only \$1 a year.

INCUBATORS AND FOSTER MOTHERS FOR PHEASANT REARING.

By HEAD KEEPER.

Incubators were first introduced by me in a small way in 1896. I saw how successfully a wealthy farmer's wife in the eastern counties brought her domestic chickens from the shell to the farmyard. I turned my attention to them first as aids to the ordinary methods of incubation of pheasant's eggs, as practised at that period. After closely watching the methods pursued by the lady referred to, who, I may remark, used an empty lumber room in the farmhouse for the purpose. I purchased, through an agent in the country, the first incubator, and trusted to mother hens to foster the broods as they came off. The following season saw me in possession of a foster mother as well.

We will suppose that the eggs are ordered from the game farm or aviary to come in sequence, and that 2,000 is to be the total. Seven hundred eggs at £5 per hundred are to be delivered as soon after April 20th as possible; 700 more about May 15th or 16th, at £4 per hundred. These take the place in the incubators vacated by the first lot having passed to the foster mothers. The last lot of 600 on June 9th, which are cheap eggs at £2 per hundred, and which, of course, are the latest we can deal with. These are late eggs, which are possibly the cheapest which can come. Now, it must be borne in mind that 110 eggs are sent to the 100—so now the room must be prepared to work them satisfactorily.

The No. 20 incubator holds 360 pheasant eggs, but I only place 350 in, as I require a vacancy or two in three days after placing my eggs. I shall require two of these incubators. In addition I have a No. 11 incubator, which holds just 180 pheasant eggs, but which I do not fill for reasons to be presently explained. In this I shall place the remaining 70 eggs which come as

the overcount. So soon as the incubators arrive I place them carefully on levelled stands, fill them to the requisite test aperture with hot water, fill the lamps and light them, and get them to the 103 degrees required. As the pheasant eggs are so much smaller than ordinary hen's eggs, the trays must be raised, so as to bring the eggs level with the bulb of the thermometer.

I purchased a small account book, in which I register the degree of heat at every visit paid to the incubator room or shed, and which with a pencil is kept in any handy place in the room, or even on top of incubator. Every egg on being placed in the drawer I mark plainly, with the date of putting in, with indelible pencil. Three days after the pheasant eggs go in I place in, say, five bantam eggs in each drawer—that is, fifteen in all. These birds come out contemporarily with the pheasants, and as bantams pick food and drink water before they are fairly out of their shell, the example thus given starts the duller pheasant chicks on the feed at once.

I purposely leave a vacancy for eggs in the smaller incubator which it must be recollected only contains 75 eggs out of a possible 180, leaving room for 105 eggs. Now, any eggs which may be brought in from the wild birds in the coverts or by-paths or roadways, dangerous positions, are marked with the date of putting in, and so started; of course, these come off at different times, but that is not of the slightest consequence, as I separate them from the previous eggs with strips of flannel.

The young pheasant will make his appearance, and can pass to the foster mother with his elder brothers and sisters, where he will soon learn to pick the food provided. Care must be taken that the incubator room is kept free

from draughts, noises and absolutely protected from shakes or shiftings.

Each morning, say at ten o'clock, the head keeper and the keeper told off to attend to the incubators go in, and after carefully shutting the door, a stool or chair is placed in front of the incubator, and the drawers are noiselessly opened out so as to cover the knees of the operator. Starting from the back of the drawer, moisten with the tongue the tips of the fingers, and turn each egg completely over—on one day the dated side of the eggs is uppermost, the next the blank side. The drawers will each be thus open for about ten or fifteen minutes, the requisite time for airing the eggs, and which approximates to Nature. The drawers are then carefully closed, hot water poured in to fill if necessary, lamps trimmed, etc., and all fastened up again securely.

The key of the door or shed should never be handed to strangers and no one should be admitted to view the incubators at work, unless accompanied by the regular attendant. At any time of the day or night that you happen to be in proximity, enter quietly, and look at the thermometers, enter heat in book so as to keep the average, and never forget to enter time and date of turning eggs. This means a systematic way, and nothing in our line succeeds like system.

I may now mention that the last 200 eggs, of which I have before spoken, are put in, together with other late eggs which may come up from the estate, and these birds I generally pass into an aviary after leaving the foster mothers, where I keep them well fed; at the fag end of the season I turn a few out in the coverts, if more sport is desired by the guns. But if sport has been satisfactory, I retain them until shooting is all over. I then keep sufficient birds in the aviary for eggs for the ensuing season, and turn the remainder out into the nearest covert for their self-laying and hatching. By this procedure I can make certain that none of the birds have been injured by being shot at, and have a sufficient stock for the following season. Those birds turned out having been well

fed and cared for all through the winter, are in fine condition and plumage, and a good head of game is practically assured for the next season. It will be observed that I have spoken of purchasing the first stock eggs from a game farm; after the first year, if good judgment is exercised, a less and less quantity of eggs would require purchasing.

As the birds are hatched out they should be passed on to the drying boxes, and will there require no food for the ordinary period. They there dry themselves thoroughly, and are transferred to the foster mothers, which should have been made ready for their reception in the same way as the incubators for the eggs, viz., lamps burning and hot water in for a day or two, so as to get thoroughly regulated. I give my way of placing the fostering machines; but of course, considerable latitude is allowable, according to the various rearing fields, etc. I choose a dry, sunny piece of meadow land adjoining the most convenient covert, where young spruce and larch intermingle with older timber, as these encourage the young birds to perch when put on their own resources. (If a large, empty aviary is available without top it can be utilized for first turning birds into with advantage, after leaving the foster mothers.) I see that the ground is carefully levelled, so that the water in the tanks over the birds is perfectly even with the opening into the various runs facing the sun as much as convenient. The birds are first fed in the glass runs before they are allowed out to the wire-covered runs; and while speaking of feeds, it must be remarked that each keeper must be there his own judge.

I myself prefer Spratt's foods as supplied, and can turn out my birds from the egg to the gun with Hearson's incubators and foster mothers and Spratt's foods. Two of the No. 21 foster mothers and one of the No. 13, are sufficient to bring the supply of birds up in first-class condition. These, with the incubators, will last for years, and no further outlay in this direction need be incurred. I have myself in southern counties put eggs in much earlier than

April 20th from aviary birds, and, as may well be guessed, they are in splendid plumage long before guns or beaters are ready for them on October 1st. I find it a great advantage to put some long wire runs, the same width as those supplied with the foster mothers, so as to give the birds as much ground to run and fresh air as possible. I see that the keeper's hut is close at the back of the foster mothers, so that the man on duty can see to the lamps in the

foster mothers at any time. And the new method of fostering surpasses the old, as no coops are required; foxes and other night vermin are powerless where the foster mothers are used, and the only period of night-watching (which the old style of rearing enforced so long) is when the birds are turned out to the coverts, and this is brought down to the lowest possible allowance if, as I before advised, the birds go into an aviary.

SPORT PRODUCING AND SPORT ALLURING.

By THE EDITOR.

If we are right in our opinion that several million game birds will be produced this season and shot and eaten by readers of *The Game Breeder* next fall it would seem that game shooting soon will compare favorably with trap shooting, both in the number of those engaged in the sport and in the number of targets.

Since probably five or six shots are fired for every bird "dead" in the first named sport, it assumes an importance to those who make and sell guns and ammunition rivalling the "sport alluring."

Many of the game clubs, nearly all of them, we believe, have traps and trap shooting and we are quite sure the trap shooting often is lively at such places. A club member at a Massachusetts club said to the writer that he had shot more ammunition at the trap on the day of our visit than he had shot in five or six years. He was getting ready for the bird shooting. Recently at a quail club on Long Island, composed largely of farmers, we observed a trap for clay bird shooting and we are convinced that the game shooting everywhere stimulates an interest in trap shooting. At the game club last mentioned the dues are \$5.00 per year.

We hope it will not be long before

many of the trap shooting clubs in the rural towns and villages will become game shooting clubs and will have good game shooting during long open seasons, as they can under the game breeders laws permitting them to have game.

Easily game can be made plentiful on ground where no game now occurs, and if the game is bred wild in protected fields, the expenses can be kept down so that the annual dues need not be large. The sale of some of the game will go a long way toward paying all the club expenses if the place be managed properly.

It should always be remembered that when the target is edible there is an offset to the cost of the ammunition and the club expenses. In some cases I have known club men to stop a butcher's bill equal to the amount of the club dues.

The country is large. There is plenty of room for all those who want good game shooting and *The Game Breeder* is always willing to give advice to those who contemplate starting new shooting clubs.

Now that it is fashionable and patriotic to produce food, we hope more people than ever before will get into the "sport producing" and that they will have much "sport alluring" on the side.

THE BLACKHEAD DISEASE.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE.

(Continued from April Number.)

NESTING.

Usually by the middle of March on our southern New England ranges, the hen turkeys will become restless and may be observed to make brief tours of investigation into the outlying districts to which, during the winter months, they have seldom strayed. After a few days, or perhaps a week, during which the nesting possibilities of the neighborhood are being explored, the hen turkey will choose her nest-site, usually in a clump of brush or briers, or in some sheltered and out of the way corner of the stone walls; then laying will begin. It not uncommonly happens in the case of a late spring that the snow will still be upon the ground when the first eggs are laid. For this reason, but especially for the purpose of furnishing greater seclusion for the nesting hen, it is advisable, ordinarily not later than the first of March, to give some aid in preparing the nesting locations.

Such assistance may be rendered in several ways, depending upon the amount of time and the facilities available to the turkey raiser. The best plan is to construct nesting boxes somewhat resembling a dog kennel, about 24 inches by 30 inches and 24 inches high with either a shed or a double pitched roof. There should be no bottom on the box and the door should be small and on one end. A detachable back and removable top facilitate cleaning the boxes. They should be placed in a concealed location beside a wall, or in a clump of brush or briers. It is well to partially cover them with cut brush or fir branches if available.

If it is impracticable to construct nest boxes of this type, barrels may be employed. These should be covered over the top with a strip of roofing paper, tacked in place, and should be blocked underneath to prevent rolling. They

should then be located, as in the case of the nest boxes, and covered lightly with cut branches or brush.

If neither of the above aids are available, it frequently suffices to throw together piles of brush alone, the heavier pieces at the bottom. Under this the turkey hen will find her way and locate her nest.

(To be Continued.)

SALES OF ONE-DAY OLD BIRDS.

The sale of one-day-old pheasants and ducks, and probably quail, and the shipping of the birds, with and without foster mothers, will be one of the interesting experiments carried on this season by the Game Conservation Society. Several prizes of one-day-old birds are offered by the society for the best short practical stories about game breeding, written by members of the society or others who may wish to compete. The stories should be short, to occupy not over a page in *The Game Breeder*; they should give an accurate account of a successful breeding experiment or even an unsuccessful one where the cause of the failure has been discovered.

Stories about hatching pheasants and ducks in incubators will be very acceptable. It is not necessary to be a "fine writer" to enter this competition. Any one who can write a good plain letter telling of an interesting experience in game breeding will stand an excellent chance of getting a valuable prize. The rapidity with which people are joining The Game Guild indicates that the society can spend a lot of money for game prizes which in our opinion are far more attractive than the hundreds of new game laws (the number is not exaggerated) annually provided for their members by the numerous game protective associations.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

BY OUR READERS.

The Game Guild.

The Game Guild is an important committee of the Game Conservation Society originally formed to investigate complaints growing out of the sales of game, eggs and fish. The work of the committee has grown rapidly during the last two years and it is proposed to much enlarge the committee and to have sub-committees in four or five sections of the country. The mail of the society has grown so large that it is impossible with the present clerical force to answer it promptly, and it is proposed in the future to advance the mail of members of the guild and to see that they get special letters of advice, when requested. This will be eminently fair since guild members pay \$2.00 a year which will be used to pay the cost of investigating complaints and the cost of additional clerical help to look after the special mail. It became necessary either to advance the subscription price of the magazine or to provide by some other means for the needed income. The magazine evidently does much good wherever it goes and we believe it would be better to lower the subscription price than to advance it. We hope many of our members will join the guild and pay the additional dollar.

The Proper Number of Hen Pheasants.

While most are agreed on the advisability of keeping pheasants in confinement as the main source of supply for the eggs they require, Capt. Aymer Maxwell says, there is much diversity of opinion about the best method to employ. Some—including perhaps most of the keepers on big shoots—favor the use of a large aviary, constructed to hold a hundred hens and more, some prefer smaller fixed pens to hold twenty or thirty, while others—among whom it is interesting to note that most of the

game farmers are to be found—rely exclusively on the small, easily movable pens, each containing one cock with whatever the individual considers the right proportion of hens, a number varying from five to eight.

While this is about the figure adopted to the capabilities of the ordinary cock, surprising instances of powers beyond the ordinary occur from time to time. Some three years ago, on a neighboring estate, three cocks were penned with twenty-one hens. By the next morning two of the cocks had been vanquished and slain by the sole survivor; two fresh cocks, introduced to restore the balance, only survived a single day before sharing the same fate. The keeper, recognizing the presence of uncommon vigor, then left the warrior in undisturbed possession of his many wives. Nor was his confidence misplaced, for the twenty-one hens averaged nearly twenty fertile eggs apiece.

The Live Bird and Egg Market.

Late reports from the dealers indicate that common pheasants sold for \$12 per pair and one dealer reports the sale of a lot of extra hens at \$7 and \$8 per bird. Practically every bird for sale was sold some weeks ago and, of course, those advertised in *The Game Breeder* were sold very rapidly and at the best prices.

Early reports indicate that the egg market has opened strong and that thousands of pheasant and duck eggs have been sold for future delivery. The Sandanona pheasantry writes that orders are on hand for all the eggs that can be delivered and wishes to have the offer of eggs for sale stricken out of the advertisement.

Dead Game.

Conron Bros. report they have received numerous offers of dead game from their advertisement—as many,

probably, as could be expected, considering the number of big shoots in New York State and the absurd restrictions preventing clubs and preserve owners in other states from sending their game to the New York market. There will be much more game sold as food next fall than was sold last season, we feel sure, since the number of breeders has increased rapidly and vast numbers of eggs will be sold this spring.

Wild Duck Foods.

Vast quantities of wild rice, celery, wapato, sago pond weed and other wild duck foods were sold last season and one of our larger advertisers writes that his orders this season are twice as large as they were last year. The work of planting ponds and marshes with foods for the ducks is interesting and profitable, but the industry is attacked by preventive legislators in Wisconsin as it was not long ago in North Carolina. The law there, we are told, was repealed promptly.

Food Prices and Production.

Since the prices of all foods are advancing and will continue to do so, we strongly urge all of the clubs and preserve owners to breed much more game this season than ever before. Game farmers, clubs and individual preserve owners, who only saved a few hundred stock birds, will do well to purchase a few thousand eggs and to employ additional help for the keepers so they can produce much more game than they did last season. It is not only a pleasure, but it becomes a patriotic duty for those engaged in the game breeding industry to push their plants to their fullest capacity.

We feel sure that game officers who interfere with breeders will not be popular and that their superiors will curb their activities.

Wisconsin Duck Foods.

Editor Game Breeder:

There has been introduced recently in the Wisconsin Legislature a bill in both Houses similar to the one which was introduced in North Carolina several

years ago and repealed two years afterward. These bills propose to restrict the distribution and gathering of wild celery, duck potato, or wapato and other wild duck foods, which are known to furnish food for game birds in Wisconsin. A copy of the bills are enclosed.

These measures seem very unwise and show no thought on the part of those who introduced them. The wild ducks of this country travel from the far north Hudson Bay region to the Gulf of Mexico and even South America, and the more food we have in every little pond and stream along their entire line of flight, the more game it will be possible for us to have in this country.

Speaking from my examinations of some of the best ducking places in America, Wisconsin has a greater abundance and a greater variety of natural game bird food, especially wild duck foods, than any other state I know of. Such an attitude is a very selfish one for Wisconsin to take, while there are hundreds of tons of good planting material going to waste within her domains. It can result only in harm to allow such a measure to be passed. This measure means less game. More food everywhere throughout the country means "more game."

The Wisconsin Game Laws are now undergoing a complete revision. I am sending you a copy of Bill 46 S. This bill repeals practically all the former game laws and puts the measure indicated in their place, providing the bill passes. However, I expect there will be a good many changes before our legislators get through with it.

With best wishes, yours for more game and fewer game laws,

CLYDE B. TERRELL.

Expert Opinions.

State of New York Conservation Commission,

Albany, N. Y., March 2, 1917.

Mr. Clyde B. Terrell,
Oshkosh, Wis.

Dear Mr. Terrell:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of Feb. 28th, enclosing copy of the

bill which has been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature, prohibiting the collection of wild rice seed for the purpose of extending the range of this valuable duck food in other waters of your State and especially of other States. It is also noted that it prohibits the removal of wild celery or any other plant or plant product for stocking other waters. It seems to me that the originator of this bill does not recognize the great harm that will be accomplished if it becomes a law. The Federal Government, through the Bureau of Biological Survey, has issued several very instructive articles on the value of wild duck foods with a view to encouraging the dissemination of these plants in all parts of the United States where climatic conditions are favorable to them. Some of these plants, which are included in the proposed prohibition, are also extremely valuable in fish cultural operations, and it is very desirable to have their range extended into many waters to which they are now unknown. The small amount of wild rice which can be collected for such purposes is a mere bagatelle to what nature, in her lavishness, has provided in your State. It would seem to be almost as foolish if you were to prohibit the distribution of pine cones or seeds of any of the trees of your forests for dissemination to other parts of the country.

I sincerely hope that the bill does not pass, and trust that you will use all possible efforts to defeat such a measure.

Very truly yours,

J. W. TITCOMB,
Fish Culturist.

=

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

February 10, 1917.

Mr. Clyde B. Terrell,
Oshkosh, Wis.

Dear Sir:—Your letter relating to proposed legislation in Wisconsin to prevent the gathering and shipping of aquatic plants has been received. As an employee of the United States Government, it is of course impossible for me

to address the State officials upon the subject of this bill unless requested by them to do so. To you I may say, however, that I consider the bill not only useless, but injurious. There is no danger that the stand of any wild plants in large bodies of water will be injured by the removal of parts for propagation, at least on the scale it has heretofore been done anywhere in this country. In fact, the breaking up of roots that takes place when the subterranean parts of these plants are gathered is one of the best ways of insuring a dense growth. It would appear that the bill as it now stands would prevent the transplanting of aquatic plants by Wisconsin citizens in the State. In conclusion, I may say that such legislation seems uncalled for and even injurious.

Very truly yours,

W. L. McATEE,
Assistant Biologist.

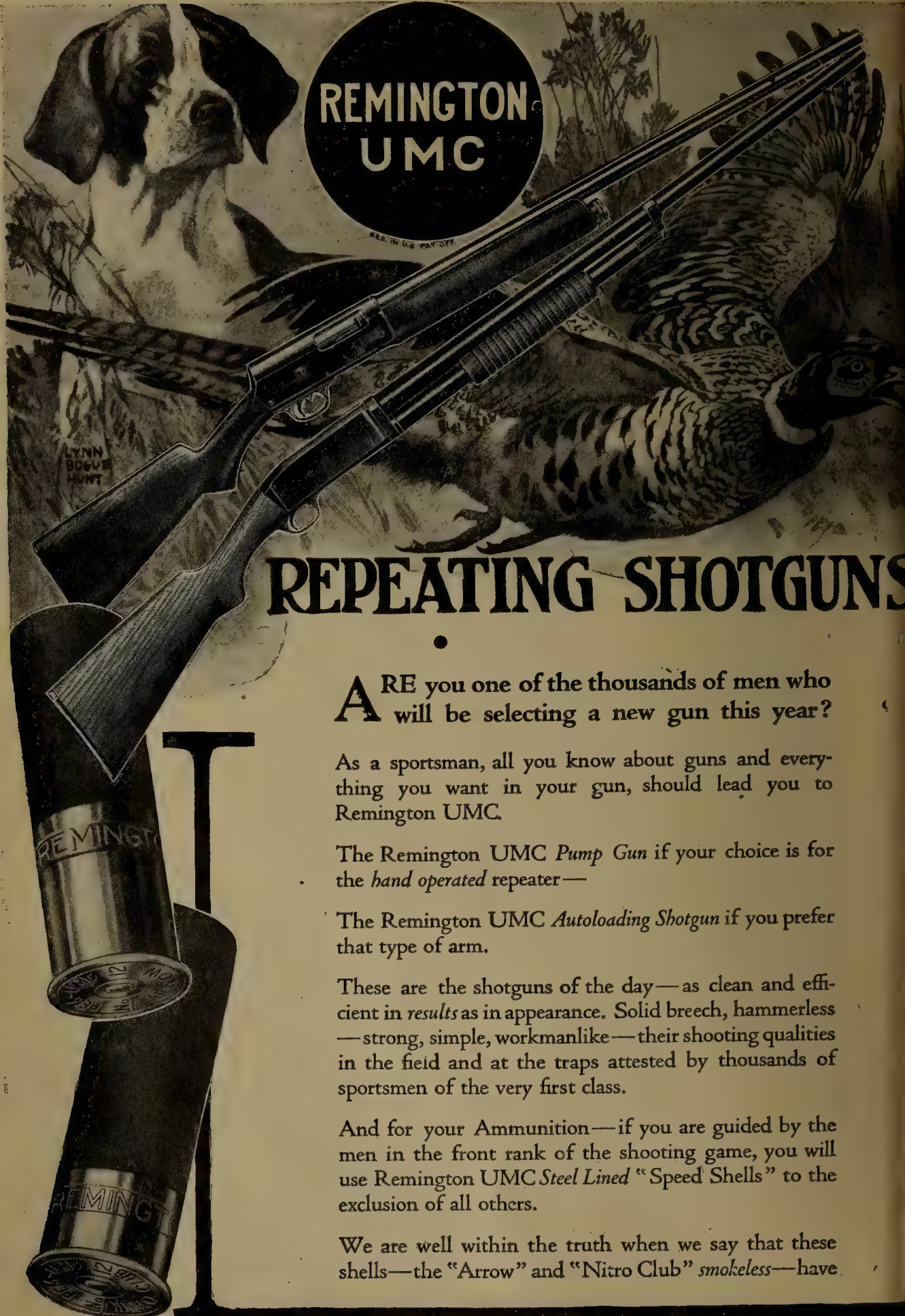
[Mr. McAtee is the United States Government expert, who prepared several government bulletins on "Important Wild Duck Foods," after making several years' investigation of the principal feeding grounds of wild ducks in this country and is probably better acquainted with the conditions and plants furnishing food for game birds, than any other man in America.—Editor.]

WILD DUCKS.

The wild ducks of various degrees of wildness and of various breeds and cross breeds have become very abundant and thousands would have been sent to the New York market last fall had it not been for foolish restrictions. There is a decided tendency on the part of wild duck breeders to improve the character of their flocks by introducing wild blood. There is much to be done in this direction before the wild fowl owned by breeders are uniformly strong on the wing and suitable for the preserve.

Crosses between the pheasants and even long periods of domestication do not seem to cause the loss of wing power which soon occurs when ducks are bred in captivity or partly domesticated. On most of the English preserves it is unusual to find many pure-bred pheasants

(Continued on page 50.)



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As a sportsman, all you know about guns and everything you want in your gun, should lead you to Remington UMC.

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We are well within the truth when we say that these shells—the "Arrow" and "Nitro Club" *smokeless*—have



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Wherever you go in this country you will find Remington UMC.

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Largest Manufacturers of Firearms and Ammunition in the World
Woolworth Building, New York

REMINGTON UMC OF CANADA, Limited
Windsor, Ontario



(Continued from page 47.)

since the dark-necked and ring-necked species and the Mongolian, Prince of Wales and even the Japanese pheasants have been used to improve the stock on the preserves. All of the hybrids of various colors and markings seem to be strong on the wing and they are excellent on the table. The wild duck proposition is quite a different matter. It does not pay to introduce tame blood on preserves where the ducks are bred for the shooting; it does not pay to domesticate or even partly domesticate the ducks. New wild blood should be introduced every season and the birds which are not strong on the wing should not be kept for breeding purposes. Of course, on game farms the wings of the birds are clipped at certain seasons, but the game farmer who wishes to be able to furnish sporting birds and desirable eggs should keep his birds on the wing at least during a part of the year and should see that they have much exercise. This can be done by feeding at several places and making the birds fly to their meals.

Jack Rabbits and Prairie Grouse.

The World, N. Y., says: "Like Australia, the Far West finds that the despised jack-rabbit when dressed and iced can be sold for real money. Hasenpfeffer may yet do more to rid the farmer of a nuisance than barbed wire or repressive laws."

The West will soon find that the prairie grouse can be sold for "real money" and that a prairie grouse ranch will produce more real money than any sheep or cattle ranch ever did. Prairie grouse are worth \$5.00 per bird and up. Thousands can be bred on protected farms where wheat and grain are grown at a cost not to exceed 50 cents per bird. The Game Breeder will furnish plans and specifications on request.

Quail, a Song Bird.

Numerous clippings similar to the following have been sent to The Game Breeder:

The jest of today becomes a sober truth to-

morrow. What was humorously suggested in the "Quail" article in a recent issue of The Traveler, that it be considered a song bird, seems to have been acted on seriously in Ohio. All friends of the birds are rejoicing in the passage of a law in that State, based on the fact that quail are song-birds.

We noticed the following item in Monday's Brooklyn Eagle: "After a sharp contest in Ohio over the future of the Bobwhite, in which the League of Ohio Sportsmen and a few other organizations fought hard for the reopening of quail shooting, the Assembly, by a vote of 102 to 14, placed the quail in the list of song birds; and the Senate ratified it by a vote of 31 to 1. This action extends perpetual protection to the quail of Ohio."

FARMER.

The Game Breeder has sounded a warning often that the game protective associations would get more protection than they wanted if they persisted in getting more laws every year and gave no attention to game breeding.

It is well known that the natural enemies of game leave just enough stock birds to restock the fields and woods every season: that if many sportsmen shoot the stock birds the game must decrease in numbers and in time it will become extinct, provided no game breeding or practical protection be undertaken. It is well known that the farmers own the quail grounds and are disgusted every year by gunners who overrun the farms without asking permission. In States where the sportsmen deal fairly with the farmers, quail shooting always is good and the "song-bird" danger never appears.

A 25-Cent Book on Trapping Vermin.

The Oneida Community, Ltd., Oneida, New York, issues an excellent "Trappers' Guide" for 25 cents. Those of our readers who have not secured a copy of the guide should write for it today. It is impossible to have an abundance of game without a liberal use of traps. The traps are inexpensive. Every "shoot" should use several hundred traps. Write for a copy of the book today and sign your letter, "Yours for more game," so the advertiser will know who is doing it.

More Game and Fewer Game Laws.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION SUGGESTED

BY H. M. BRIGHAM.

Game breeders in America are much indebted to Mr. Henry Martyn Brigham, of New York, because he wrote the game breeders' law, parts of which were engrafted on the ridiculous Bayne bill intended to prohibit the sale of all game, which was pending in the New York Legislature. He adroitly provided for many restrictions, which were surely necessary in order to get any legislation intended to encourage the production of game in New York.

The provisions of Mr. Brigham's bill which became the law of New York were copied in other states and the entering wedge in a nonsensical method of game preservation was secured.

Mr. Brigham agrees with us that the time has arrived when many of the restrictions (which seemed to be necessary, at the outset, in order to make any progress) should be removed.

In a recent letter he makes a most valuable suggestion. Game clubs, he says, should be permitted to shoot the game birds they may purchase from game farmers and from larger clubs which have expensive equipment.

Mr. Brigham agrees with us that the time has arrived to issue licenses to game breeders without charge in order to encourage small breeders or food producers.

"You may count on my support," he says, "for any bill which will reduce or eliminate the fee for a license to breed game."

The New York legislature and other assemblies now in session should pass, under a suspension of the rules, a bill authorizing the Conservation Commissioner to issue permits to game breeders to produce all the desirable foods without charge or fine.

As the law reads, a small breeder who wishes to purchase a few dozen eggs and hatch the game birds, must pay a \$5.00 license before he can sell any birds or

eggs, and in most cases he must renew the license and pay another fine of \$5.00 before the birds are ready for market. For what? Food producing!

No one at this time can find any objection to a change in the statute intended to encourage the small food producer.

Massachusetts issues permits WITHOUT CHARGE and the capable state game officers say such permits and the game breeding industry "conduce to the public welfare."

In Massachusetts it is legal to produce all species of game.

In New York it is illegal to produce any species excepting the imported pheasant, two species of wild ducks and deer and elk. It should be legal to multiply the species in danger of extinction which most need the game breeder's attention.

If the New York Conservation Commissioner will favor such liberal legislation, quickly it can be placed in the books.

The Game Conservation Society will purchase and distribute some eggs to small breeders and help them to get busy.

We hope the Conservation Commissioner will see the importance of the proposed legislation. He can ascertain that it will be popular, and that it produces results, by writing to the capable Massachusetts commissioners, who are a credit to the commonwealth.

Unless we are decidedly wrong in our opinion, the people are in no mood just now to see a food producing industry strangled.

It is absurd to say that every one can destroy a certain number of birds every day during the open season and that no one can take a similar number of birds for breeding purposes.

GAME ENEMIES.

BY M. J. NEWHOUSE.

Method of Trapping Hawks and Owls and Crows.

As is well known, both hawks, owls and crows generally alight on some high point like a tree-top, high posts or pole and sometime the ridge-pole of a barn either to survey the surroundings or to eat what they have caught.

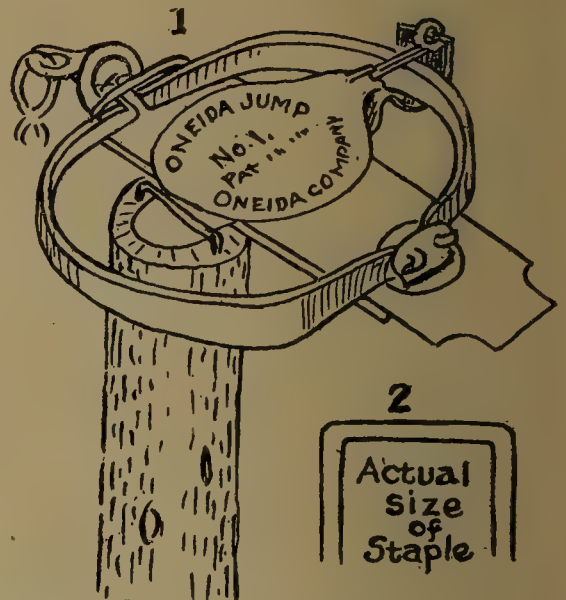
In our experience the most successful way of catching them is to use a long stake or hop-pole, saw off the small end so as to have at least $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. This gives ample room for a staple large enough for a No. $1\frac{1}{2}$ or No. 2 Oneida Jump Trap. The staple can be made from common stove-pipe wire with a pair of pliers. No pointing of staples required as they drive readily into end wood.

Drive the staple into the end of pole, leaving only room enough to insert the end of the cross piece as shown in illustration. The chain hangs quite close to the pole and wedge on end of chain can be driven into pole so low down on the pole that the bird would be unable to regain the end of pole when caught.

This way of placing the trap is far more satisfactory than nailing a small board on the end of the pole as a bench for the trap which often shakes off the table in a wind by the constant swaying back and forth. By using the staple the weight of the over-hanging trap holds it firmly in place, but is instantly released by any exertion of a bird when caught.

With a high pole and bench or table the trap has to be tied on, but with a staple is easily handled when placing pole in a fence corner or lashing same to a fence post or stake.

[While we were looking at the drawing illustrating the placing of the hawk and crow trap, Mr. J. H. Wise, a capable game keeper, came in the office of The Game Breeder. He suggested cutting the top of the pole so the trap could



Oneida Jump Trap. Showing method of setting on post.

be inserted in the cut and said he had found the traps very effective when so placed.—Editor.]

=

Trapping Turtles.

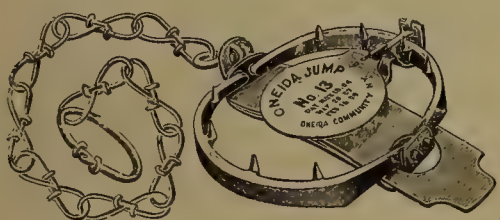
I have been experimenting with traps of various styles and have settled on either our California pocket gopher trap with some modifications, which I think would fill the bill both for turtles and water snakes, or our No. 12 Jump Trap.

I am not certain in the case of water snakes whether or not they strike at bait as a turtle does. If they do not the pan should be made to operate either way. I have been experimenting with a trap which had this double action, so that a reptile like a turtle or snake lifting on the bait would spring the trap, but in order to make this double action on the No. 12 the expense would be so great that we would not care to handle it unless we felt sure of having a sale of at least 100 dozen.

All things considered, I think the pocket gopher trap with the alterations which I would make would fill the bill, although this trap is made of wood largely. I think it could be used with-

out any further protection so as not to catch young ducks. In case the No. 12 were used a cage or protection around the trap would have to be supplied in order to keep young ducks from being caught.

This trap would have to be set perpendicular and should be tied to a flat



stake and all inclosed by fine chicken wire with opening just large enough for a good sized turtle's head, say $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

I am enclosing cuts of both traps, also clipping from the Syracuse Herald with reference to owls. In this connection, I might mention that I have never seen any reference made to cow frogs catching young ducks, but I recollect well when a boy of seeing a young duck pulled under and I caught the frog in the act and killed him.

The cow frog is not very common. Many people call them bull frogs, but the cow frog proper will weigh from one to two pounds. The largest size could almost swallow a very young duck. They are easily caught by a fish hook and line with a hook set baited with a minnow or angle worm about an inch over the water.

The California pocket gopher trap with the alterations I suggested would cost in the neighborhood of 35 cents each.

The hard shell of the turtle and the extremely short flat-leg makes trapping by the leg a very uncertain proposition with the common steel trap.



Locating a Place for Target Practice.

By A. P. LANE,
Remington U. M. C. Co.

In these troublous days a great need has sprung up for adequate target range facilities for home guard training. A few hints on the proper selection of a range site and the necessary fitting should be of interest.

The ideal rifle range should be outdoors, facing slightly east of north, and with a body of water several miles wide in back of it so as to eliminate the necessity for back stops. Such locations are hard to secure and in the months to come, we will see the construction of target ranges for rifle and revolver training in all sorts of improvised locations. The first requisite for any range is, of course, sufficient space, and after that comes the absolute necessity for safety, and a method of stopping the bullets is important. Perhaps the best back stop of all is a mound of loose sand or soft earth. If several feet in thickness it will stop any kind of a high power rifle bullet.

Indoor galleries are usually fitted up with steel back stops and consequently high power rifles cannot be used for they would soon tear the plates away. For all revolver work and rifle work with reduced charges and lead bullets, $\frac{3}{8}$ " steel plates are very satisfactory. They will last indefinitely. The best practice is to install them at an angle of about 30 degrees so that the splash from the molten bullets will be thrown to the ground.

On outdoor target ranges the trench which must be dug to throw up the back stop serves as a protecting shelter for the boy whose work it is to spot the shots on the target and give the score. In indoor ranges an equivalent construction would be rather expensive and the need arises therefore for some method of pulling the targets back to the firing point without interfering with the other shooters. Target carriers accomplish this result. A number of different gallery equipment makers can furnish them, the prices ranging from \$6.00 to \$15.00 per unit, depending upon the elaborate qualities of the various parts. A little ingenuity will also permit the construction of these by the members of the club who would otherwise use their energy in tinkering with the plumbing about the house or the family automobile.

One range I have seen is fitted up with a very good set of "home grown" carriers consisting of a heavy wire tightly strung from one end of the range to the other for each firing point and running on it a carrier with wheels and a clip to fasten the target to. It is run back and forth by means of braided cord run over pulleys and an old sewing machine wheel to which has been fitted a handle.

The properly constructed range is a great help to good scores and it is not as simple a subject as would appear on the surface. Ques-

(Continued on page 59.)

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THREE YEARS OF CONFERRING AND PREACHING.

The third annual conference on game breeding of the American Game Protective Association was interesting. Several score of game wardens, breeders and game keepers attended and numerous excellent papers were read.

A game breeder who attended asked us if we could inform him where he could get a few pair, or even one pair, of ruffed grouse or prairie grouse for breeding. He said he would pay \$20 per pair. We informed him that many members of our society have plenty of grouse but that we feared the State and national laws would prevent them from selling or even giving him any birds.

It occurred to us that after three years of conferring by the Protective Association and after more than three years of preaching by The Game Breeder that the progress in the production of grouse for the market was not very encouraging.

As a result of the preaching, supplemented by the conferring, many States have enacted laws permitting the profitable breeding of all or certain species of game. Wild ducks, or perhaps we should say near-wild ducks, have become very abundant in many places and where they are kept strong on the wing they afford excellent shooting and eat-

ing. Hundreds of thousands of pheasants are now reared and at some places the bag runs into thousands of birds in a season. The birds are sold in the markets in increasing numbers. We are convinced the laws should be made more liberal in order to permit the sale and shipping of grouse both alive for propagation and also as food in the markets. Amend the laws and we will, at once, send a lot of birds to the game farms and preserves where they should be produced in great abundance in protected fields and woods.

We would suggest to the Game Protective Association that it get busy and see that the laws permitting the profitable breeding of pheasants and ducks be amended so as to permit the breeding of all species, and we will encourage the members of our society to increase the numbers of their grouse; we are sure they are now willing to sell some if such sales can be legalized.

REFLECTIONS ON "MORAL TURPENTINE."

There is a difference between acts which are simply naughty and those which are criminal.

There is a difference between criminal acts which have and those which have not the element of moral turpitude—"moral turpentine," as the Southern game warden expressed it when he said he was forced to admit that game law crimes do not contain this element of wrong doing.

Since there is, evidently, no "moral turpentine" in trapping stock birds in order to make ten food birds grow where only one or none grew before, or in having stock birds in possession for breeding purposes (especially where the birds have been acquired by purchase by an owner who is unaware that he must pay an advance penalty for the right to produce food on his farm from stock legally obtained), we do not think State game officers should be permitted to raid such innocent food producers, to confiscate their stock birds and to threaten them with excessive fines and long terms

in jail, far bigger and longer than the fines and penitentiary sentences imposed on persons guilty of real crimes, burglary, forgery, larceny, etc., where the element of "moral turpentine" is strong.

We believe, at least during the continuance of the war, when a food producer is found engaged in his laudable industry, even without paying the advance penalty, or license, for so doing, it would be wise simply to notify him that he must pay the license and not to break up his plant as if it was a gambling house or a joint for the making of counterfeit money or "moonshine" whiskey.

"Man, Proud Man," when he becomes a game warden, should not regard food producers as in the criminal (M. T.) class. He should not make his raids under the presumption there is "moral turpentine" when such a thing is impossible from the very nature of the industry. He should not seize and confiscate birds which are laying eggs. He should not be permitted to acquire big fines and to boast of his exploits.

"Proud man, dressed in a little brief authority," when he becomes a game policeman, seems to over-exert himself in New York and sometimes, of old, he did so in New Jersey, until Commissioner Napier promptly brought about some reforms.

No such scandals, as have occurred recently in New York, ever occur in Massachusetts or in the other New England States, where the breeding of game is a legal industry. They would not be tolerated in the South or in the West. They are a disgrace to New York and we believe and hope the Conservation Commissioner will undertake to curb his over-eager officers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Game Breeder:

The enclosed clipping indicates that you are right, as usual, in warning sportsmen that those who stopped dove shooting are determined to put bob white on the song-bird list. I often think of the closing sentence in the letter which you published from a lady in New Jersey who decided to give up game breeding

on account of the game laws: "The fools are not all dead yet are they?" Why not encourage the breeding of quail?

Indiana.

F. H. RIDGWAY.

The following is the clipping:

QUAIL CLASSED AS SONGBIRDS.

Columbus, Feb. 7.—By an almost unanimous vote, the Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill to put quail on the songbird list and prevent hunters from killing them.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

Winsted's Move Next."

Mrs. William Crown, who lives on the old Dark Moon road back of Allamuchy, N. J., hung her table cloth on the clothesline a few days ago and in half an hour she was pained to see three deer eating it greedily. The table-cloth was ornamented with a design of green leaves. Mrs. Crown fought the deer off with a stout stick and they retired for reinforcements, returning a little later with three companions they attacked the woman and ran her into the house.—*Exchange*.

THE DANGER.

"Pa, a man's wife is his better half, isn't she?"

"We are told so, my on."

"Then if a man marries twice there isn't anything left of him, is there?"—*Boston Transcript*

A Boomerang.

"You made a fool of me," exclaimed the angry husband.

"My dear," calmly rejoined his better half, "you seem to have forgotten that you have always posed as a self-made man."—*Indianapolis Star*.

An Expectorate.

"A man asked Miss Katherine Pitts The breed of her little dog Fritz.

I think, replied Kate,

He's an Expectorate.

The truth was the dog was a Spitz."

This reminds of the statement of a washwoman who often referred to her excellent dog. When asked what breed it was, she said she guessed it was one half spitz and the other half was "just dog."

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Announcements inserted under this head in small type for 3 cents per word. If displayed in heavy type, 5 cents per word. No advertisement accepted for less than 30 cents. Postage stamps accepted in payment.

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(Continued from page 53.)

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State of New York, County of New York, ss:—Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared D. W. Huntington, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of The Game Breeder, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit: 1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The Game Conservation Society, Inc., Post office address, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Editor, D. W. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Managing Editor, none. Business Managers, The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. 2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.) The Game Conservation Society, Inc., 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Stockholders: C. B. Davis, Grantwood, New Jersey; F. R. Peixotto, 55 John St., New York, N. Y.; A. A. Hill, 71 Murray St., New York, N. Y.; D. W. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.; J. C. Huntington, 150 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. 3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None. 4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for which such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowl-

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(My commission expires March 30th, 1918.)

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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XI

JUNE, 1917

No. 3

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

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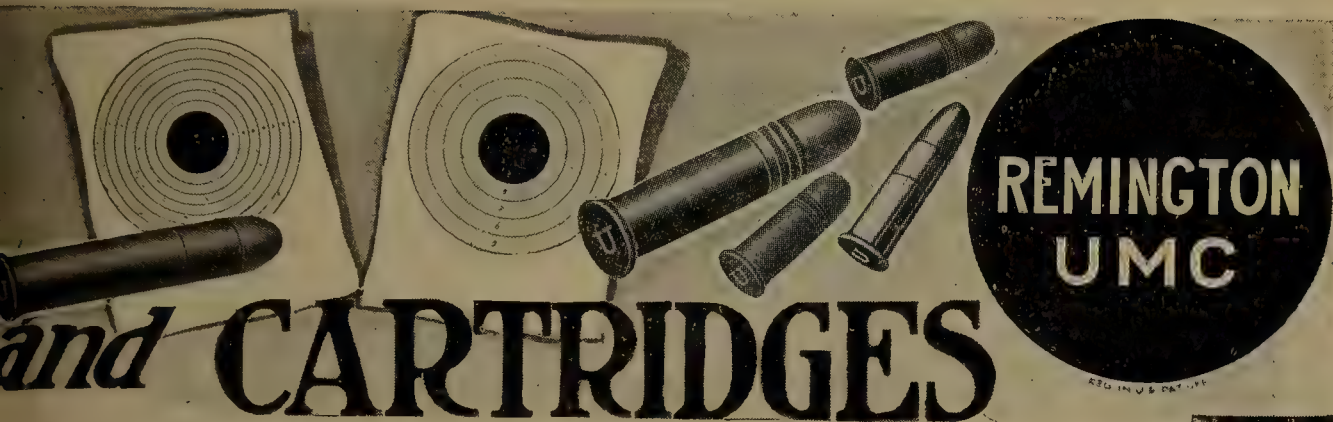
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The Game Breeder

Published Monthly. Entered as second-class matter, July 9, 1915, at the Post Office, New York City, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOLUME XI

JUNE, 1917

NUMBER 3



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

The North Dakota State Sportmen's Association.

The prospectus of the North Dakota Sportsmens' Association, "now incorporating," has been received. The officers of the preliminary organization are C. H. Parker, president; Thos. Forde, treasurer; Dr. J. R. Pence, secretary; Hon. E. B. McCutcheon, former chief game warden, will act as preliminary organizer.

=

A Warning.

The prospectus contains the following timely warning addressed to the sportsmen:

Do you realize you narrowly escaped a close season on native birds; that a bill nearly passed preventing the use of dogs; that Sunday shooting was nearly eliminated; that certain kinds of guns and the use of automobiles, for hunting, were nearly barred? Do you realize that unless we wake up, these things will be slipped over next session? Can you not see that we have been killers not breeders of birds?

We wish to warn the new association that if they go in for more game laws every season they will surely get what they go after, and that they may expect to acquire not only the restrictions referred to in the warning but also the prohibition of sport.

=

History Repeats Itself.

Some serious minded people may imagine that shortening the season, limiting the bag, and the many other restrictions, will produce "more game" but the evidence is cumulative in other states that good shooting has not been produced in this manner. As the number of guns increases the bag limit will

be reduced from twenty to ten, from ten to five, from five to three, and the next step will be a close season for five years. This usually is found attractive to farmers and easily it can be renewed for another term. Meantime all the good setters and pointers, owned by sportsmen die a natural death, and many a man in middle life has passed to the happy hunting grounds waiting for the quail season to be opened up again.

=

"Remember the Buffalo and Save the Grouse"

This slogan of the North Dakota Association with an absurd cut of a buffalo skull suggests that a lot of small lawyers, as usual, may be employed yearly to recite little pieces to the legislative committees beginning, "Where are the buffalo, where are the wild pigeons?" etc. We have heard this oratory for nearly two score years and we have seen the game vanish as if it was frightened by the noise.

The buffalo were saved by a man who decided they were passing and that he would save a few. He soon had a big herd and offered them for sale. No one in the United States wanted them but he sold to Canada and realized about \$200,000, or some other good sum. The story appeared in The Game Breeder. If any one wants any buffalo we can furnish a few car load lots at reasonable prices and if properly looked after they will multiply more rapidly than the Alderman thought the gondolas would in a city park if a male and a female gondola be purchased. We doubt if there are many farms in America where the

owners will consent to have herds of buffalo introduced as sporting animals for the general public. We think the new North Dakota Association will do well to drop the, "Where are the buffalo" business and the buffalo skull device and to get down to practical business. The, "Where are the buffalo" people are getting scarce in the Eastern States.

=

Restrictions and Production.

We would advise the new association to go slow on restrictions and to spend their money and energy on game production. Each local organization should have its game farm or "shoot" for all the members. A good noisy refuge where thousands of birds are killed every season will be found far more interesting than a quiet sanctuary which after all is only another posted farm. There are, no doubt, enough posted farms in North Dakota to answer as refuges. Remember that one restriction will be followed by another; confirmed mischief makers surely will endeavor to pass them off on the association and to induce it to favor them.

In some of the states close shooting was prohibited to give the doves a chance. Later the close dove season became permanent. Next came the short closed seasons for quail, renewed from time to time.

Stop the use of one kind of gun and the mischief maker will soon propose stopping the use of another kind; the excuse will be that the birds are still vanishing. As a matter of fact it makes very little difference what kind of guns are used provided there are enough of them and provided the natural foods and covers of the birds are destroyed and the natural enemies be un-controlled.

We have shot big bags of grouse in North Dakota, with double guns and pump guns, but we never expect to see a grouse on vast areas where the cover is plowed under and the birds are left to stand on bare mud during a long season, and, later, in emerald fields of growing wheat, where every hawk and every "varmint" easily can discover and take them. There will be no grouse on

most of the land in North Dakota until some natural covers and foods are restored and made permanent. This easily can be accomplished provided the state and national sportsmen's associations will look after such matters and the expense can be covered by the sale of a few birds alive or dead. Dead birds make the people smack their lips and say, "field sports are all right." The game market has saved sport in other countries.

=

A Choice.

The sportsmen of North Dakota can take their choice. They can spend a lot of money every year getting more game laws and they will, no doubt, bag what they go after, or they can put their money in "more game" and they will be surprised at the excellent shooting during long open seasons.

The dues for an association which goes in for game should be a little larger than those of the association which simply wants more laws, but the members of the game association will get some excellent meat in exchange for their dues and there will be no danger of laws prohibiting the use of dogs.

=

Bills that Failed in Minnesota.

Important and desirable bills which failed to reach final passage were the game breeders' bill, authorizing raising of game by private individuals, and a bill to provide for commercial fishing in Red Lake. A provision to permit making two express shipments of fish by licensed non-resident anglers, Representative Frye's frog conservation bill, and a bill to extend commercial fishing to the lower part of the Minnesota river, were not reached for final passage.

=

One Effect of Protection.

Often we have pointed out that those interested in game protection might before long get more protection than they wanted. The writer is somewhat responsible for giving the game protection idea a good start in Ohio. Many years ago, when the wild turkeys occurred in Ohio, we put this food bird on the song

bird list but before long, and while our law was in the books, the turkey ceased to sing because it was extinct. Natural enemies and rabbit-shooters evidently were over-abundant.

=

An Amusing Illustration.

Professor Pearson, secretary of the National Association of Audubon Societies, gives us, in *Bird Lore*, another example of "too much steam on," in Ohio. He says:

For the past five years there has been an absolute close season on quail shooting in Ohio. The time set by law was about to expire, and the question arose, shall quail be shot or shall they be protected for another term of years? This Association favored continuing the close season for at least two, and perhaps five years, and our Ohio agent, Dr. Eugene Swope, began a campaign looking to this end, when lo! the farmers of the State took up the fight and demanded that this bird be protected for all time, and the Ohio legislature has passed such a law!

Notes From Minnesota.

Importance of Fish Culture.

Any product bearing close relation to the food supply and the cost of living, should have care and attention, with a view to its conservation and increase. We are just beginning to realize how important in this respect is that product which we take freely from the waters of the state. There is no article of food which can be produced at so little cost for capital investment, operation, distribution and marketing combined, as fish. So closely allied is this product to our agricultural resources that it may be considered as a food "crop" and as such compared with the products of agriculture in importance, value and cost of production.—*Bulletin Minnesota Game and Fish Department.*

The remarks are equally applicable to game. Prairie grouse, weighing about 2 pounds, can be produced in vast numbers on protected fields at very small cost since they will find much of their food in the fields. Quail should be a big food supply, and not a vanishing game bird. All real naturalists now realize the economic importance of the game and game fish and agree that the

markets should be kept full of these desirable foods.

=

Cost of Production.

The Bulletin further says:

In considering whether the production of any agricultural product is economically profitable the cost of producing it is always considered. If the cost of production exceeds the value of the product its production can not be justified on economic grounds. Let us consider the cost of production of fish, etc.

The hand-rearing of pheasants is expensive far more so than the wild breeding of pheasants in protected fields and woods. But at present prices the breeders find there is a good profit in pheasants. When these birds become tremendously plentiful as they will in a few years the prices will fall rapidly in the markets and many pheasants, no doubt, will be sold cheaper than poultry as they are in other countries. Sport will contribute to the cost of production and the sportsmen having far more birds than they can use will sell them cheaply. The grouse and quail bred wild, however, are the cheapest and best game that can be produced. Thousands of wild fowl now are produced in protected marshes.

=

Cats and Cat Licenses.

The Editor of *The Ladies' Home Journal* devotes a page to the cat problem, beginning thus:

"A town council was asked, the other evening, to pass an ordinance to license and bell cats, and to have all non-licensed cats destroyed. The councilmen smiled: then a witty (?) member cracked a joke about Pussy; a still wittier member cried "Meow," and the matter was passed over as a joke. Nothing was done except to reveal the members of the town council to the community as a body of men who didn't know a serious subject when they saw it."

We do not object to cat license laws, cat bell laws or laws prescribing the times of the day and night when "pussy" can walk abroad. If it becomes necessary to have a special cat police we hope a comparatively small force can do the work.

Upon one of our first visits to an

American game farm and, "shoot", where thousands of birds are shot and eaten every season, one of the most interesting things the game keeper exhibited was a cat grave yard, as thickly studded with graves as the burial places near battlefields, depicted in the papers, are. The keeper said sometimes it was a little embarrassing to have some one ask, when he went down to the village, if he had seen a rather large white cat with a yellow ribbon on its neck, when as a matter of fact he had just come from a funeral at which such a cat figured with others, slain on the same field when attacking birds.

More recently we have employed keepers who were skillful in taking the cats which took our birds, and on one occasion there was a little trouble on hand because a big cat went home with one of our traps on its hind leg.

We have more confidence in Oneida traps for cats, with a little pump-gun work on the side, for good measure, than we have in laws prescribing the hours when cats can walk abroad which may, like other similar enactments, become dead letter laws without a special cat police. Laws requiring cats to have the music of bells wherever they go probably will put some birds on their guard and it will be interesting to watch results.

A Remington 22 works very nicely on cats, and if the sitting shot is a miss we have found some pretty rapid fire work at the fleeing bird thief interesting. All good "shoots" should have a few Remington 22's for target shooting. We have observed them at some of the clubs where ladies joined in the shooting.

Nonsense Abroad in Wisconsin.

A Wisconsin member sends the following from The Wisconsin State Journal:

"Game farming, in which many farmers and other persons are quite extensively engaged, will be prohibited if an amendment adopted last night passes the Senate. Mr. Spoor, who is the author of the amendment, and Mr. Rosa, both denounced the present law as conferring special privilege."

Special privilege to produce food on a farm! This is the high-water mark of nonsense thus far. The farmers are beginning to think that possibly it may be a "special privilege" that might well be ended to issue permits for \$1.00 to shoot up the farms with the understanding that no one can have any of the food secured excepting the shooter. We have warned sportsmen repeatedly what they might expect if they persisted in their notions of "special privilege."

Mr. E. G. Showers, one of our Wisconsin members, sums up the situation thus: "They might as well tell us that we cannot let grass grow in our yards, for that is one of nature's products also."

A Minnesota farmer was reported as saying that it was desirable to kill the few prairie grouse on the place before the dudes from town came out. Sport in agricultural regions will fare badly until the farmers' interests are considered.

Other Wisconsin members write to thank us for our interest in their trouble; one urged us to write to the Governor. There is a rare chance for the Governor to suggest in a special message that food production be not suppressed just at this time.

More Banded Ducks Taken in California.

During the 1916 open season, as in years past, several ducks originally banded in Utah have been taken in California. Mr. Chris Krempel killed a banded green-winged teal at the Greenwing Gun Club in Orange county during December, 1916. A report from the United States Biological Survey stated that the bird had been released at Bear River, Utah. On December 16, A. J. Buckley killed a green-winged teal at Los Banos, Merced county, bearing a tag numbered 3889. This bird was banded at Bear River, Utah, September 11, 1916. Another duck, banded at the same place on October 3, was killed by Henry Schubelhut at Brito, Merced county. S. G. Davis killed another teal bearing the number 4138 at the same place during January.—H. C. BRYANT.

QUAIL AND PARTRIDGE BREEDING FOR PROFIT AND PLEASURE.

"Partridge shooting is a valuable by-product of agriculture to the operations of which it is in no sense inimical."—AYMER MAXWELL.

By DWIGHT W. HUNTINGTON.

The North American quail or partridges (the bobwhite is called partridge in the Southern States) constitute one of the most important groups of game birds to be found in all the countries of the earth. For many reasons I regard the bobwhite, which heads the list of American partridges or quail, as the best game bird in the world. All of our quails are excellent food birds and they are of especial economic importance to the human race on this account. They should be abundant in our markets during long open shooting seasons. Although shooting is prohibited in many of the states and the birds are said to be vanishing in many places, I have no hesitation in predicting they soon will be plentiful everywhere, and cheap in the markets, since their propagation for food and for sport is one of the coming industries of the country. Already there are places in the United States where thousands of quail are produced and shot every season and the number of people who are willing to give these birds the attention necessary to make them plentiful and to keep them so is increasing rapidly. It is highly important when laws are enacted prohibiting quail shooting they should provide that quail breeders be excepted. Otherwise there can be no industry.

It is well known that our quail, like the European partridges, are in no way detrimental to agriculture (with the possible exception of the California quails when overabundant in vineyards). All ornithologists and agriculturists agree that the birds are a great benefit to any farm since they destroy many injurious insects and weedseeds. Paradoxical as it may seem, the true way to make the quails abundant, and to keep them so, is to shoot them in abundance.

Darwin says that if not one head of game were shot during the next twenty years in England, and if at the same time

no vermin were destroyed, there would in all probability be less game than at present, although hundreds of thousands of game animals are now annually shot.

The prohibition of sport is detrimental not only to sportsmen but even more so, to the farmers since the quails are a valuable food and their production for food and for sport can be made to add much to the value of any farm. Already on hundreds of thousands of acres of farms big and small the taxes, both on lands and buildings, are paid by the quail crop and although thousands of quails are shot and eaten every season the birds increase in numbers from year to year. There are exceptional years, due to climate, but the shooting and eating of quail never is suspended on this account. In some places the "by-product of agriculture," not only pays all the taxes on the farms but also yields a substantial cash income to the farmers. This easily can be doubled by opening the best markets to the desirable food. Anyone with ordinary intelligence knows that foods which have a good market are worth more than foods the sale of which has been prohibited. It follows that farms from which our most valuable meats can be sold are worth twice as much as those where the production and sale of the food is prohibited. I have gathered much information about the increase of farm values by the production of game. In some cases the value of the land has been more than doubled.

Since most of the cultivated farms are now posted against all shooting and in some states quail shooting has been prohibited, the sportsmen have nothing to fear from laws which will result in making the quail abundant and profitable. Arrangements can be made with many farmers for good shooting and the quail will be restored to many wild lands and abandoned farms where the shooting is open to all.

The fact that quails are beneficial to agriculture has been promulgated by the enemies of sport to induce the farmers to favor laws prohibiting quail shooting for terms of years or at all times. The tendency of our legislation rapidly was in the direction of putting an end to quail shooting everywhere when the so-called, "more game", movement calling for an increase of game by practical methods for sport and for profit was inaugurated. As soon as we regard quail shooting as, "A valuable by-product of agriculture," as Captain Maxwell has well said partridge shooting is, we will have an abundance of quail everywhere in the United States (excepting the northern portions of the northern tier of states east of the Rocky Mountains) and I have no doubt the sportsmen of all classes will find plenty of good quail shooting during long open seasons without danger of exterminating the birds. The quail easily can be made plentiful in some of the Canadian provinces.

Sportsmen should remember that laws prohibiting quail shooting are necessary in places where no one looks after the game properly, and protects it from its natural and domestic enemies and from climate losses. No species can withstand these losses and the losses due to shooting at the same time. The Audubon Societies and others interested in protecting birds by law should remember that the prohibition of sport puts an end to the practical preservation of all game species and deprives the people of splendid foods which should be abundant and cheap.

All sportsmen are familiar with the bobwhite, the most common species of quail in the United States, including the subspecies, the Florida bobwhite and the Texas bobwhite, which are somewhat smaller than the northern birds. The bobwhite has been introduced successfully in states beyond its range and thrives in Montana,* Utah and some other

states (shooting being prohibited). It should be made to thrive everywhere although thousands be shot every season.

The other American quails or partridges are of comparatively limited dispersion, being western and south western species.

Our object is not to repeat much that has been well written for ornithologies and books on field sports, but to inform the reader how the birds can be made and kept tremendously plentiful for sport and for profit so that the shooting can be lively, during long open seasons, and so our tables can be abundantly supplied.

It cannot be denied that the gray partridges of Europe are tremendously abundant from year to year although hundreds of thousands are shot and sold as food and hundreds of thousands are trapped and sold alive for propagation. Many thousands of birds have been shipped to America at a single consignment. I read, recently, an account of an actual day's partridge shooting when a party of ten guns shot eighteen hundred and ten partridges, walking them up without the aid of dogs (excepting retrievers).* I have the figures from one who took part in the shooting. They are larger than usual, no doubt, but there are many places both in England and on the continent where a bag of one hundred birds in a day's shooting would be considered small. Other records of excellent shooting are referred to later.

Since the gray partridge of Europe is somewhat similar to our partridges or quails we should expect to make the indigenous birds plentiful by applying the European methods. I am pleased to observe that they have been successfully applied to our quail in many places and that I have seen the birds on many American farms fully as abundant as it is desirable to have them; big bags are made every season. I know places where it is perfectly safe to shoot two or three thousand quail in a season and I have seen American records (when visiting the places where they were made) which indicated that one or two

*See articles: The Introduction of Bobwhite in Montana, by Hon. M. D. Baldwin in *The Game Breeder* for Nov. 1914: The Bobwhite in Oregon, in *The Game Breeder* for April, 1915.

The Game Breeder for May, 1916.

thousand quails are shot, during a few weeks shooting, every season. I have no hesitation in saying that the quail on some of these places are more plentiful than I ever saw them in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and other states in the days of greatest abundance when we found it an easy matter for a party of four or six guns to shoot a wagon load of quail in a few days.

All of our quails are very prolific and they can be multiplied with startling rapidity. Quail shooting is regarded by many as our best sport afield and it is gratifying to observe that quail shooting can be made excellent at a very small cost per gun and that it really is the cheapest form of game preserving which has been undertaken in America. The figures given me by some of the quail clubs prove that quail shooting costs very little when compared with duck shooting or pheasant shooting. On some quail shoots, of course, the sportsmen have an abundance of pheasants, grouse, and ducks for good measure.

Quail multiply so rapidly when their natural enemies are controlled and when foods are supplied in bad weather that it is not necessary to engage in any excursions abundant abroad and which have wires and inclosures. I am strongly in favor of the wild-breeding methods which have resulted in keeping the partensive hand-rearing, with its crops, resulted in the abundance of quail and the excellent shooting which I have found on many places in America.

The artificial rearing methods are valuable on some places where they may be used to advantage to supplement the field work, just as they are in foreign countries, when eggs are found in exposed or dangerous places and when sitting birds are driven from their nests by natural or domestic enemies, by water used for irrigation and by farm machinery. We should always remember, however, that the artificial rearing of quails and partridges is expensive and uncertain: that wild-bred birds are far better for sport, and the cost of production is

very small when the birds are bred wild in the fields.

It is significant that thousands of dollars have been expended in hand-rearing experiments and that no hand-reared quail have ever been shot and few have been sold alive for propagation, while on the other hand, hundreds of birds have been shot the first season and thousands thereafter, each year, in places where beat-keepers are employed to see that the quail have attractive and quiet nesting sites; that they are freed, to a large extent, from the ravages of enemies, and fed abundantly at times when natural foods are scarce.

It is desirable to know the artificial methods since, as we have observed, they may be used to save some birds and eggs. These will be referred to after the proper methods of handling the birds in protected fields have been described. We wish at the outset to impress upon the farmers the fact that easily they can have an abundance of quail and other game; that the game will be profitable; that laws preventing them from having quail to eat and preventing them from selling game or renting the shooting decrease the value of the farm since any farm where game can be produced for food or sport is worth much more than one where such industry is criminal. We wish to impress upon the sportsmen the fact that the time has come when quail shooting will be prohibited forever on the inclosed and cultivated farms unless they deal fairly with the land owners and make it worth while to preserve and increase the game.

Audubon lists the quail as one of our best wild food birds. It is only those who have no knowledge of natural history and the laws which regulate the increase and decrease of the numbers of any species who delight in saying that the quail is a "song bird" and should not be eaten. We agree heartily with Audubon and all other real naturalists that the quail is an excellent food bird intended by the Creator of all things for human food.

FISH PONDS ON FARMS.

BY ROBERT S. JOHNSON AND M. F. STAPLETON.

U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

(Continued from the January number.)

If a gravity flow of water is contemplated, the fish pond must, of course, be located below the level of the source of supply. Porous soils are to be avoided, if possible, not only because of the large volume of water required to replace loss from seepage but because they are usually sterile. Swamp lands, old water courses, and catch basins of years' standing are the best and most productive soils, as they possess the required fertility and contain seeds and spores for the early development of profuse vegetation and animalcula. Ponds located in such soil will maintain their water levels with a minimum inflow.

Satisfaction may be had from ponds less favorably located, however, if good sense is employed in their preparation and maintenance. Aside from the ideal lands of alluvial deposits, clay loams are a first choice, being most nearly impervious to water and quickly responsive to efforts made to establish their fertility. Sandy loam, being the most prevalent, is probably the most general soil in use for pond construction. While some difficulty may at first be experienced in making it retain water, this is overcome in time by the accumulation of decayed vegetation. Its fertility is good and, in general, it produces a sufficient supply of natural food. Even clear sand and gravel mixtures may be made to hold water and brought to fair productivity by increased expenditures in construction, and by the application of fertilizers in a manner to be explained later.

It is very desirable, and also essential for a marked degree of success, that ponds be so located and constructed that they may be entirely emptied of water at certain seasons. To this end there should be accessible a natural dry

run or water course lower than the bottom of the proposed pond, to which drain pipes may be conducted.

Ponds are drained for the purpose of assorting fish, removing objectionable species, reducing the stock, killing out excessive vegetation, etc. Complete drainage can not be effected, of course, unless there are adjacent waters to which the fish can be removed during this process. A number of small auxiliary ponds will always be found advantageous in fish-cultural work.

Where the primary purpose is other than fish culture the selection of the site must depend upon the more important object in view. Fish culture will yield very satisfactory returns as a secondary enterprise, but the site selected for the work should by all means be the best available consistent with the general scheme of farming operations.

POND CONSTRUCTION.

The exact mode of construction must depend largely upon local conditions, such as the presence or absence of favorable land contour, the nature of the soil, proximity to storm channels and the area of the ground to be worked. Even with these features specified lesser local characteristics and the exigencies of individual circumstances will vary the application of any approved general method. Where practicable ponds should be not less than 1 acre in surface area. Those of smaller extent will produce fish and add an interesting feature to farm life, but they will not yield adult food fishes of the larger species in quantities sufficient for the requirement of the average farmer's table.

Natural draws or ravines involve the least expenditure in their adaptation to fish ponds, as two and frequently three sides are already formed, so that an

earthen embankment connecting them will complete the inclosure. Such locations must be surrounded by ditches to divert surface water where that is likely to roil the pond, and effective waste channels should be provided if the site covers the natural course of flood waters.

If flat land of an elevation only slightly lower than that of the source of water supply is selected, it will be necessary to excavate the ponds in whole or in part to the required depth to insure a water level lower than the supply. Thus the excavations will form solid banks which, if impervious to water and properly sloped, will require no further attention except to bring them to uniform widths and elevation, which can be done with the material excavated in forming the pond proper. The bottom of the pond should be shaped to drain to a central point.

On swamp lands and depressions which are susceptible to drainage and are at the same time low enough to insure a gravity flow of water from the source of supply, one or more fish ponds can be constructed by the erection of longitudinal and cross-section dikes high enough to provide the required depth of water. The construction of such ponds involves only sufficient excavating to give the bottom the proper slope. In other words, the pond should be built up rather than excavated, and the water level therein will be higher than the surrounding land.

The method of constructing pond embankments is governed by the topography of the land, the character of the soil, and the volume and pressure of the water to be confined. All made embankments should be at least 6 feet wide at the top, and the sides sloped not less than 2 feet to each foot in height. For instance, a 6-foot fill should be 30 feet wide at the base and 6 feet at the top.

Prepare the foundation by plowing the site of the embankment, after first removing all trees, underbrush, rock and sod, and, as an extra precaution against seepage, dig a trench 12 inches deep along the median line. This will form

a break, or set-off, between the original ground and the made construction, which is a point of natural weakness. The filling should progress by layers over the full width and length of the levee as a continuous operation rather than by sections; otherwise the completed work will later develop checks by reason of variations in material and compactness. Rocks are of use as a protecting riprap on the slopes after completion.

In case the water supply to a pond is taken from a creek, the latter must be dammed and an intake built above the construction provided with screens and dam boards, from which a water conduit must be laid to the pond. The dam should be provided with an ample spillway, which may best be constructed of concrete.

The shape or outline of the pond is immaterial. Currents of water are undesirable in the propagation of the spiny-rayed fishes. In fact, the best brood and rearing ponds are those which are supplied by backwater from other bodies, and if there is reasonable depth and a fair growth of vegetation no stagnation will result.

Success in pond fish culture is being attained with widely varying forms of construction. To a considerable extent fish will adapt themselves to existing physical conditions. In nature they seek comparatively shoal waters in which to spawn, by reason of the prevailing higher temperatures, and during certain stages of their growth the young choose similar depths, where food is plentiful and beyond the bounds of the customary range of large fish. Relatively deep waters must be accessible to the stock fish during winter months, and what this depth shall be will depend largely upon the latitude of the location; cold climates where great thickness of ice forms require the deepest pools.

Experience teaches that breeding ponds should be excavated to hold not less than 12 inches of water at or near the margins; that one-fourth of the pond area should range from 12 to 30 inches in depth; and that one-half its total area should be not over 3 feet deep, the bot-

tom of the remainder to slope from this depth to 6 feet or more at the outlet. Avoid abrupt slopes. Provide complete drainage to the deepest point, where a waste pipe controlled by gates or slash boards should lead to outside natural channels.

It will be found a great convenience when draining ponds to have shallow channels 6 inches deep and 15 inches wide, at the head of the drainpipe, radiating to all parts of the pond bottom from a kettle or pit, which may be of wood or concrete. A large percentage of the fish will follow such channels as the water recedes, and may be removed from the kettle with less danger of injury than if picked up promiscuously about the pond.

Remove all projections from the pond bottom which might interfere with the operations of seines, plow the entire bed and level it with harrows before turning in the water or treating further for water-tightness.

As stated above, ponds located on swamp bottoms or in clay soils are practically impervious to seepage, and there should be no difficulty in maintaining their surface levels. Sandy loams are more uncertain; they require time to become thoroughly saturated, but will improve in this respect from year to year, through the accumulating deposits of decaying vegetation. It is an excellent practice when first filling newly-constructed ponds with water, whatever the nature of the soil, to follow the advancing water line with a drag or harrow, driving the team knee-deep into the water. The constant roiling and puddling of the ground in this manner is very effective in cementing open cracks and crevices. Very porous soils may require the addition of a layer of clay before they will hold water. From 2 to 6 inches of stiff brick clay over the entire bottom and up the sides, well above the water line, the bottom harrowed down as explained above, will hold water over the most open ground likely to be used. The only objection to the presence of clay is its general sterility, but this may be corrected by another layer of rich loam,

after the clay has been worked down and proved efficacious. Where this process is to be employed, allowance must be made at the time of excavation for the refill of 12 or more inches. Coarse stable manure, and even clean straw, well trampled into the pond bottom, has been reported as a successful remedy for seepage.

A good set of native sod or sedge grass around the entire pond at the water line is the best preventive of wave washing and encroachments upon new fills. If the location is such that strong currents or eddies are present, piling, rock riprap, or other reinforcement, will be necessary at the points of greatest exposure.

Landowners desiring to undertake fish propagation may feel that the expenditure necessary to secure completed ponds, as described above, is prohibitive; or they may have waters available for fish culture which it would not be expedient to remodel along the lines indicated. The plans outlined are in accordance with the present-day standards. Fish may and are being successfully propagated in far less ideal environments, but more native ingenuity in such cases is required. This, however, is a common attribute of the American farmer, and any one who can mix balanced feeds, practice scientific grain breeding, or master the intricacies of modern farm machinery, need not hesitate for fear of failure to add fish culture to his daily routine.

Summarizing the construction, these features should be provided for:

1. Water-tightness, so that a small inflow will be sufficient. This will result in high temperatures during the summer months.
2. A shallow area, from 18 to 30 inches deep, where the fish may nest.
3. A deeper area, of 6 feet or more, for winter quarters. This will also be occupied by the adults in the summer, after nesting is completed.
4. A fertile bottom for the growth of aquatic plants, upon which fish food depends.

If these requisities, together with a suitable water supply, are provided the fish will thrive.

The accompanying drawings explain the types of intake and drainage devices which have proved effective. These may

be varied to meet the conditions encountered, and be constructed of either wood or concrete. The latter material is shown in the illustrations, and is the most durable, but wood will be equally as satisfactory while it lasts.

REMARKABLE PHEASANT BREEDING.

BY HENRY B. BIGELOW.

[The following story about pheasant breeding should interest our readers much. The pheasants, reared at a cost of 35 cents each, easily can be sold for \$3.00 each. Our shooting readers will be interested in the comment on the pheasant as a sporting bird and the covers where it thrives in Massachusetts.]

This article is reprinted from *The Game Breeder* for April, 1914. Many new readers will be interested in it and it is an excellent sample of the kind of stories we believe our readers want. We shall give prizes of live quail and other game birds to those who send us the best stories during the year.—Editor.]

My experience with pheasants has been as follows: The matter of chief interest, perhaps, is the cost. In my case there was no question of hiring a game-keeper; the pheasants had to take their chances with the other poultry, and neither I nor my man knew anything about handling them.

I bought three hens and a cock (Ring-necks) from which I had about 120 eggs; then by purchase and from friends I secured enough more eggs to bring the total to two hundred and twenty-two eggs. These we set under ordinary hens during May and the first part of June. The chicks hatched before June 1 all died of cold; of the others we raised sixty-five to the liberating age, five weeks, i. e., about twenty-five per cent. I have done worse with hens!

As to food. I bought Spratts little book on pheasant breeding (25 cents) and followed directions, but our success was due chiefly to insect food. Early in the game, we found that the chicks would eat gypsy moth caterpillars and after that we fed them largely with the result that there was practically no death rate, so long as the caterpillars and pupae were available. Incidentally, the chicks cleared the birches in their yard of caterpillars.

When five weeks old the broods were taken out with their foster mothers to places here and there, the old hens still

in their coops. I had supposed we would have to feed the pheasants for some time; but to my surprise the young birds were self-supporting almost at once, feeding in the rye and asparagus fields. After this they were fed no more, but shifted for themselves.

The total cost, excluding the price of the stock birds and wire netting, was thirty-five cents per bird liberated; including these items, about seventy cents. But, of course, I need buy no more stock birds or netting for this year.

Now that we have our pheasants at liberty, the question is, was it worth while? This hinges on whether the pheasant is a good game bird or not. To me it is of no interest whether or not driven pheasants are hard shooting as I do not drive. But I can say, without hesitation, that the pheasant was a great addition to my game bag. He can not, of course, be compared with the ruffed grouse, but the latter is in a class by himself.

The Ring-necked pheasant is not a woodland bird but a marsh bird in his native country; and it is in rough river meadows where he can make incursions for food into farm land, that he is at his best here. On our wet meadows, a pheasant or a snipe is about equally likely to jump from before your pointing dog. When the "bottom" is open he runs but in dense cover (i. e., tall thick matted

grass) he lies like a rock, and we often find them in matted thickets of roses, elders, etc.

Of course, he is large and comparatively easy to hit in the open, but no more so than quail which give more easy shots in the open, more difficult ones in the brush, than other game birds. Finally, the pheasant, does not winter-kill if he has enough to eat, and he is a very good bird on the table. In Massachusetts he seems to lengthen out the season providing some sport before and after

partridges, woodcock and quail can be killed. On the whole he seems to me well worth while on the right ground. But to raise pheasants where the range is all pasture fields and bare wood is a waste of time and money, as they won't stay there."*

*The Spratts Book (25 cents) on Pheasant Breeding referred to is published by The Spratts Patent, Ltd., Newark, New Jersey, whose advertisement appear in the magazine. The use of maggots is advised in the book but where insects are plentiful they are the best food for young birds in connection with the foods made by the Spratts.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

The Busy Season.

The egg market continues excellent. The prices remain up and our advertisers are reporting good results. All game breeders are so busy at this season that we find it difficult to get them to write the short stories about their experiences which we are sure our readers want. Some good things are promised, however, and we hope many readers will get live quail prizes so that they may be able to rear some personally owned quail not subject to "song-bird nonsense." We sometimes think it would be a good plan for the breeders to use the black throated bob white and the spotted mearns quail so that there would be no doubt about who owned the quail if a big bag should be made in prohibition states. We are quite sure the laws protecting state game are not intended to apply to game produced by the thousands by individual industry. The only trouble is to prove the ownership when the birds look exactly alike. The right way, of course, is to consider all birds on a game farm as owned by the farmer until they stray and again become a part of the game said to be owned by the public because no one has captured it or taken an interest in it.

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Contract Rearing.

In the older countries many game birds are reared by contract and delivered to the preserve owners and shooting syndi-

cates when full grown. In America some of the smaller breeders now rear some birds by contract and often birds are sold by small breeders to our larger advertisers.

Mr. Henry M. Brigham made a valuable suggestion in the May number of The Game Breeder, that the laws should be amended so that game farms and clubs, with expensive equipment where many thousands of game birds are produced annually, could sell live game to small clubs for shooting purposes. As a matter of fact many quail clubs, which have no expensive equipment for rearing pheasants and ducks often do buy a few of the hand-reared birds and liberate and shoot them. We heard of such an order to one of our advertisers only a few days ago. They proceed, no doubt, on the theory that laws protecting wild or state game surely are not intended to apply to game produced by industry and purchased in good faith either as food or to improve the shooting. Laws prohibiting the sale and transportation of live game became dead letter laws in many states when producers began shipping the game they produced and game officers with common sense soon realized that they should not seize and confiscate private property under laws enacted to protect wild game.

The better way always is to have the laws amended and not to have them pass into a state of "innocuous desuetude."

There are far too many laws which are violated because their execution seems absurd. Mr. Brigham is quite right in suggesting the amendment, and contract rearing may receive a great impetus when there is no longer any doubt about what can legally be done with the food produced.

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Fun in the Boies Case.

An attempt was made at the trial of the Boies case to show that the defendant was an old offender and that for many years he had been a law violator.

Mr. Boies when he learned that he must have a license to breed game wrote to the Conservation Commission, Albany, N. Y., using a letter paper which indicated that he was a breeder and dealer in dogs, cats, rabbits, fancy mice and rats, pigeons, bantams, pheasants and water fowl. He said in the letter he had had much experience with birds for twenty years.

The claim made by the State, our readers will remember, was that he had eight mallards and one pheasant in his possession at the time he applied for and paid for his license.

On cross-examination he was asked to state where he had his experience with birds. He replied: for several years in Massachusetts, where he was employed by a breeder to look after his birds. He said his employer owned seventeen varieties of pheasants. Asked if he then had a license, he said he did not; that he did not think as a hired hand he was obliged to have one. He did not know if his employer was required to have a license at that time or if he had one.

For several years, Mr. Boies said, he had a bird store in the city of New York, where he sold birds. What kind of birds? Answer: Poll parrots, parakeets, canaries, etc. Laughter followed this announcement.

Was it not a fact that on one occasion he purchased ducks at Dover Plains? Answer: Yes; white Pekin ducks. More laughter.

This was the evidence showing that Mr. Boies was an old offender.

He proved without contradiction that

the ducks he had in his possession were descended from ducks reared by him some years ago from eggs which he purchased in Connecticut in answer to an advertisement in a poultry journal. At one time, having been burned out, he gave the ducks to his father-in-law, who that season reared 25 and ate them all but eight. When these eight tame ducks were returned to Mr. Boies and he decided to become a commercial breeder he applied for a license and wrote the department, using the letter paper which indicated he was a breeder in dogs, cats, rabbits, etc., etc.

There was no intent to deceive the department; otherwise he would not have used the letter paper illustrated with pictures of dogs, cats, rats and an aviary species of pheasant.

He should not have been told that he was liable for \$285, because in good faith he applied for a license and paid for it. He should not have been scared into agreeing to pay \$100. All that was necessary and proper was to notify him that he should have obtained the license before he hatched the ducks, or at least to suggest that he pay a very small fine for his error. He was directed to pay \$10.

We wonder if farmers who have turkeys which are as closely related to wild birds as the Boies' ducks are should pay a license or take their chances of going to jail.

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Wild Mallard Eggs.

We have had numerous inquiries as to the color of mallard eggs.

Audubon describes these eggs as follows: "The shell is smooth and of a plain light dingy green. Size $2\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{5}{8}$." He says the eggs are smaller than those of the tame duck and rarely so numerous.

Elliot describes the mallard eggs as grayish white with a green tinge.

Pale olive seems to us to be a good color description.

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The Quail a Food Bird.

Audubon was a sportsman and enjoyed eating game. The quail was no

"singer" for him. We would respectfully refer Dr. Swope, the Audubon Society agent of Ohio, to the following from Audubon's Ornithological Biography: "The ordinary food of the species consists of seeds of various kinds and such berries as grow near the surface of the ground, along with which they pick up a quantity of sand or gravel. Towards autumn, when the young have nearly attained their full size, their flesh becomes fat, juicy and tender and being, moreover, white and extremely agreeable to the palate, is in much request."

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Audubon on Hawks and Quail.

Audubon, referring to his excellent picture of the quail (Virginia partridge as it was called in his day), says: "In the plate I have represented a group of partridges attacked by a hawk. The different attitudes exhibited by the former cannot fail to give you a lively idea of the terror and confusion which prevail on such occasions."

We have tried the prevention of "terror and confusion," and we found it resulted in an abundance of quail to eat, which the "confusor" would have taken had it not been for our efforts. In America partridges are cheap for hawks and other vermin; in other countries partridges are cheap for the people—often cheaper than poultry.

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A Big Duck.

One of our readers says a big duck, much larger than a mallard, which it resembled, put in an appearance when he was shooting our decoys on a Long Island preserve. He describes it as ludicrous in size and that it afforded much amusement as it went sailing by over head. It escaped unharmed and we regret that it was not bagged and identified.

Possibly it was the descendant of a big puddle duck of the barn yard and a wilder parent. It may have been a hybrid of the mallard and muscovy. Elliot says, "occasionally along the Atlantic coast a duck is shot that is larger than the mallard, with the head and part of

the neck black, with green reflections and the lower portion of the neck in front often white. Sometimes there is some white on the throat and head. Breast very dark chestnut, under parts white except the crissum, which is chestnut black. Back brownish black variegated with grayish brown; rump and upper tail coverts, black with green reflections, like the head. These birds were regarded always with much interest, and opinions differed as to what they could be, but it is now generally considered that they are hybrids of the mallard and muscovy, which, although bred in captivity, have returned to the wild state. The description given only relates to one style or phase of the plumage exhibited by these birds, as individuals vary considerably from each other.

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It seems that Dr. Eugene Swope only intended to swipe field sports in Ohio for a period of five years, but that the legislature made a clean sweep, bringing the swipe that Swope wanted to an inglorious end. Next! Shall the scene be laid in North Carolina, professor?

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We hope that the new North Dakota association will remember that it is more fun to start game breeding and to go shooting than it is to go lawmaking. The last named sport usually ends in prohibition.

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Vermin Records.

Many clubs and preserve owners now keep records of the cats, hawks, crows and other vermin destroyed. These records are interesting especially when the various species of hawks are set down with notes as to their habits. Good keepers are beginning to distinguish between the birds which do much harm and those which do comparatively little harm. The fact that marsh hawks, supposed to be in the beneficial class, were destroying the valuable heath-hens on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., is one of the most interesting and important facts brought to the attention of game breeders by the Massachusetts commission.

A Desirable Industry for Women.

A talented writer on English sport, Mr. A. J. Stuart-Wortley says, "I strongly advocate the employment of women to manage pheasantries and look after sitting hens and young birds."

There are in America about an hundred women engaged in game breeding. All of them, with possibly one or two exceptions, are members of the Game Conservation Society and readers of *The Game Breeder*. The number of women engaged in this new food producing industry is growing rapidly and we predict it will not be long before thousands of American women will be making a good living rearing game birds.

The women seem to be braver than the men in many cases where their industry is threatened by game wardens and we regard it as fortunate for the industry that so many women are going into it. The average game warden when he proposes a fine of a few hundred or a few thousand dollars to a woman with the alternative of going to jail often may run against a brave opponent who tells him to do his worst. The male who donates a few thousand dollars to the warden in order to escape his threatened jail sentence does much harm to the game producing industry and we hope in the future there will be more brave men who will decline to contribute excessive amounts for small offences.

Game breeding for women is an especially timely industry for women now that so many men are called to the colors and we hope to see many women undertake game breeding. We hope they will send letters to *The Game Breeder* describing their work.

Keeping Records.

Game breeders will find it interesting to keep records of the number of eggs gathered from pens, big and small, the number of eggs set, the number hatched in each nest, the number of birds taken to rearing fields and the number reared to maturity.

Game breeding is a matter of skill, both hand-rearing and field-rearing when the birds are bred wild in protected

fields (as quail and grouse should be) but it is well said that luck plays its part. A severe storm especially with hail, when young quail and grouse are hatching will reduce the number of the birds, and storms often are disastrous in fields where birds are hand-reared. Coops have been overturned and rearing grounds flooded. The records will be bad sometimes but more often better luck will prevail and good records will be filled with figures and notes which will be instructive and valuable. We shall be glad to record some excellent records if our readers will send them in, and records of some failures, also, with their probable causes. We believe all readers are much interested in what others are doing. Each should remember that he may have some experience which will interest other breeders and which may bring out additional facts if it is published in *The Game Breeder*. Send us some interesting records, please.

Quail Records.

It is interesting to go over a quail preserve with good dogs, after the shooting has ended and to make an inventory of the stock birds left for another season. If the season be a bad one and if the shooting has been a little overdone it may be necessary to purchase a few quails and turn them down on fields where they are needed to make the shooting good again. From now on we believe it will not be so difficult to get live quail as it has been.

Records of the shooting are very interesting on the places where a few thousand quail are shot every season. We have enjoyed looking over the score books where the records are kept right and show the daily bags, number of guns, area shot over and often some marginal notes about unusual happenings, extraordinary shots, extra fine dog work, etc. We would advise all the new game clubs and game breeding associations to keep full records. They will furnish interesting reading.

Movements of Keepers.

Wm. Melrose has gone to Indian Neck Farm.

Warning Signals.

Warning signals against "swipes" have been ordered displayed by the Game Conservation Society throughout the middle west. Sportsmen and game

breeders should be alert everywhere in this area. Common sense still prevails in Texas, throughout the south and on the Pacific coast where the Game Breeder is well represented.

FITTING UP A .22 REPEATER FOR FINE TARGET WORK.

No. 1. The New Remington UMC No. 12-C N. R. A. Target Grade Repeating Rifle.

Small bore rifle shooting under the direction of the National Rifle Association of America has for its principal object the instruction of our citizens in the art of rifle shooting as a sport and as practical preparedness measure. Its increasing popularity gives unmistakable evidence that it has taken a strong hold on those who love to shoot the rifle.

During the past few years the N. R. A. has organized many of its clubs into leagues, in fact the league competitions for the winter of 1917 showed a membership of over 100 clubs.

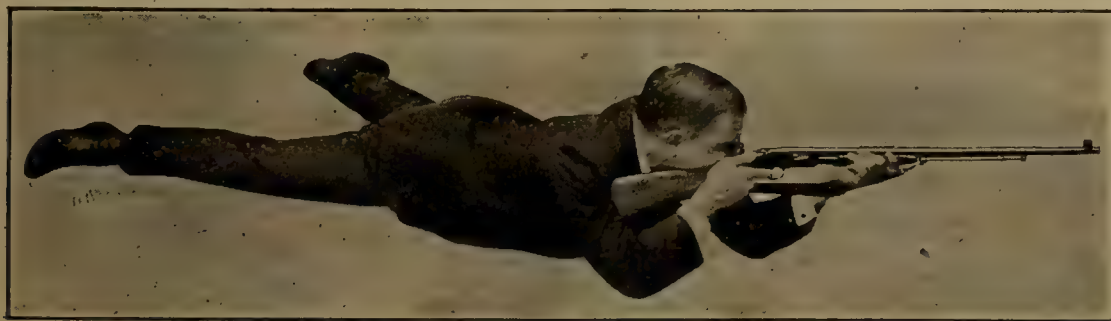
Most of the shooting is done from the slow free prone position and while this kind of shooting is undoubtedly of value, the great war has demonstrated that expertness in slow fire shooting does not mean a complete rifle education. Rapidity of fire is more important, but requires suitable arms in order to obtain the best results.

With the exception of the .22 Krag and Springfield Army rifles, which are not altogether satisfactory, there has been no arm on the market that would fill the demand for a suitable rifle for both slow and rapid fire shooting in the various positions used. Single shot rifles, as a rule, are not easy to load and handle in rapid fire work, and the repeaters, while admittedly extremely accurate, were not very satisfactory for slow fire work because they lacked the sling strap, so necessary in holding a rifle steady.

The Remington Arms Union Metallic Cartridge Company has for some time been experimenting on the repeating rifle with a view to making it suitable for all round use in slow and rapid fire shooting in all positions and at short range distances up to 100 yards. These experiments have resulted in the production of No. 12C N. R. A. Target Grade Repeating Rifle (illustrated herewith). Essentially it is the same as the regular Model 12-C Repeater, so popular with the rifle shooting fraternity. The new model is fitted with the Lyman globe and aperture windgauge front sight and Lyman elevating tang peep sight with cup disc. The sling strap is fitted to a ring on the rear magazine band at a point which allows great pressure in the strap without in the least affecting the groups made by the rifle.

Judging from the remarkable experimental groups made with regular stock rifles in the hands of practical and competent rifle shots, the new rifle will undoubtedly attain great popularity among the followers of the small bore rifle shooting game.

For slow and rapid fire target shooting in all positions and at all distances up to 100 yards the No. 12-C N. R. A. Target Grade Repeater is undoubtedly in a class by itself. Many sportsmen have hesitated about buying a heavy, single shot arm useful only for target work, and they will welcome a rifle well adapted to both bullseye shooting and small game hunting.



No. 2. The New Repeater and Ideal Rifle for Prone Shooting.

The Game Breeder

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D. W. HUNTINGTON, President,

F. R. PEIXOTTO, Treasurer,

J. C. HUNTINGTON, Secretary.

Telephone, Beekman 3685.

We hope in the future the Audubons will try and think what their great leader would do if personally present and that they will consider the quail better as a "broiler" than as a singer.

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A big economic question is presented just now. Thousands of quail quickly can be produced for food and at a very small expense, provided they be bred wild in protected fields. They surely should be protected from hawks and other natural enemies if we would eat them.

REMEMBER SWOPE'S SWIPE.

Although Dr. Swope is an Audubon agent we hardly think the national association should be blamed for not excepting breeders when the shooting of quail was prohibited for all time in Ohio. We are reliably informed that the Audubon Society is in favor of the profitable production of game foods and we are quite sure they will favor exceptions permitting the production of food when swipes such as occurred in Ohio are pulled off. There often are cases where agents exceed their authority and we believe this is one of them. The matter seems to have been taken out of Swope's hands and rushed through. The law can be amended as soon as the legislature meets and the Game Conservation Society and the Audubon Society can work together to this end. The great Audubon undoubtedly was right in placing the quail in the food bird list and the way to make the food abundant is, of course, to make it profitable.

The people of Ohio and throughout the country long will be saying "Remember Swope's swipe," just as the people in Texas said "Remember the Alamo." The swipe has made Swope a national figure, but we do not envy his notoriety.

Suggested by the Swipe.

We never felt the need of more money than we did when we learned about Swope's sudden swipe. The Conservation Society is well organized in many parts of the country where a swipe affecting breeders would be impossible. If we had a State agent in Ohio with plenty of money, as the Audubons have, we could have amended the law so as to permit food production. We must have more money. Large checks should be made to the treasurer. Small bills may be sent safely in the mail at our risk. We guarantee safe arrival.

The more we think about the matter the more we become convinced that game breeders, ignorantly guilty of petty misdemeanors, should not suffer greater penalties than those awarded to murderers, burglars, forgers, thieves and other real criminals. The police of New York seem to take their employment too seriously.

MORE FOOD.

The agitation for the production of more food which is country-wide has resulted in many people increasing the size of the areas tilled and even many small gardens have been started in places where there were none last year.

We pointed out in the May Game Breeder the patriotic duty of all game breeders to push their plants to their fullest capacity and we learn with much satisfaction that some breeders who have many breeding fowls are purchasing eggs and will produce much more game this season than ever before.

Many new breeders are starting and there can be no doubt that this year will be a banner year for game breeding in America.

Although it is said often that many people can not afford to eat game at

present prices, we should remember that those who can will do so and that the pheasants, ducks, quail, deer and other game eaten will leave a corresponding amount of cheaper foods for those who do not care to buy game at present prices. There will be a substantial addition to our food supply.

Wild ducks would have been as cheap or cheaper than tame ducks in the New York markets last year had it not been for foolish restrictions which prevented their coming in from many States. We heard of ducks selling at very reasonable prices in many parts of the country; in fact we had complaints from breeders about the low prices. As the game becomes very abundant the prices must come down. They will remain up, however, for some time because of the large numbers who are undertaking the new industry for sport and for profit and who must purchase breeding stock. The Hercules Powder Company has been congratulated many times, no doubt, for its timely campaign for more game farming. Its advertising campaign long will be remembered as one of the most notable and important campaigns ever undertaken by an advertiser. Our records indicate that many tons of game will be produced in America this year, and the ratio of increase will be geometrical.

Every country excepting America had an abundance of game when the war started. The desirable foods which should be plentiful and cheap in America were sadly scarce; their place seems to have been taken by many game laws, which, Dr. Shufeldt says, tend to protect the game off the face of the earth.

OUR ATTITUDE.

We have often said that we are in favor of simple laws protecting wild game. We have not much confidence in bag limit laws since we are quite sure they are easily violated by many persons. We favor short seasons for the taking of the wild game said to belong to the State because it has no other owner. We are in favor of a national law prohibiting spring shooting, provided it be constitutional, and provided it be writ-

ten, as any criminal law should be, so as to define the crime and fix the penalty; and we believe the United States marshals should have charge of executing the law, with special deputies where needed.

We are opposed to delegating the crime making power of the United States to any one, especially to those who are to execute the law. Since they will have no gun license fund to furnish the money for their wages there will be a stronger temptation for national game wardens to make unseemly arrests than there is for some State officers whose conduct does not meet with our approval.

We believe the State laws and the game departments should encourage and not prevent game breeding, a most important food producing employment, which the late Judge Beaman, of Colorado, said was one of the important coming industries. We believe that all species of game, when produced and owned by breeders, should be sold under simple and reasonable regulations intended to prevent the sale of wild game said to be owned by the State. We believe the State Game Departments can be made of great economic importance and that they should assist in making America the biggest food producing country in the world.

Any one who objects to our policy may print his objections in *The Game Breeder*, using twice the space we may give to the discussion of any subject.

Just now we would like to have someone point out wherein we are wrong in asserting that game breeders should not be arrested and fined excessively for small misdemeanors connected with their industry. We will be glad to print an article by anyone who will point out why game breeders should not be treated as leniently as murderers, burglars, forgers and those guilty of the various degrees of larceny are. They have not been placed on an equal footing with the professionals listed in New York State. We have pointed out that the fines demanded from game breeders by the game police were many times larger than those imposed on people guilty of important crimes.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Announcements inserted under this head in small type for 3 cents per word. If displayed in heavy type, 5 cents per word. No advertisement accepted for less than 30 cents. Postage stamps accepted in payment.

THE GAME BREEDER

150 Nassau Street

New York City

LIVE GAME

FOR SALE—GOLDEN PHEASANTS, FULL plumage, non-related, healthy stock, \$11.00 per pair. **FRANKLIN J. PITTS**, 14 Webster St., Taunton, Mass.

FOR SALE, SIX WILD MALLARD DUCKS, 2 drakes and 4 hens, good healthy birds, price \$10.00. **JAMES DEARMIN**, Oakland, Minn. R. R. No. 1.

PHEASANT AND JAPANESE PHOENIX FOWL Eggs for sale; several varieties. **S. V. REEVES**, 114 E. Park Ave., Haddonfield, N. J.

WILD TURKEYS—For prices see display advertisement in this issue. **W. J. MACKENSEN**, Yardley, Bucks County, Pa.

PHEASANTS—GOLDEN, SILVER, AMHERST, Chinese.—Wild Geese—Wild Ducks, English Beagles—America's greatest Hunters—bred in the wilds of the Adirondacks—hundreds of acres of range. **WILLET RANDALL**, North River, N. Y., Beavermeadow Stock Farm.

WILD MALLARD DUCKS—YEARLINGS, 2 HENS, 1 drake, \$3.50. Prompt delivery. Mail draft. (trios only) no limit. **BREMAN (O.)**, Danville, Ill.

BELGIAN HARES FOR SALE, FROM PEDIGREED, prize-winning stock. Satisfaction guaranteed. **CLIFFORD MACKLIN**, Kearney, Neb. 23

PHEASANTS, MELANOTUS, AMHERST, REEVES, Golden, Silvers, Ringnecks, Silkies. **TROUT**, 126 Kingsbridge Road, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

SIBERIAN FUR FARM, HAMILTON, CANADA; breeds Foxes, Martin, Mink, Skunks, Wild Geese, Ducks, Pheasants and Black Siberian Hares. Send 25 cents for Booklet on the latter.

PURE BRED WILD WATERFOWL AT FOLLOW-ing prices: Mallards, \$3.75 per pair. Pintails, \$3.25 per pair. Green Wing Teal, \$5.00 per pair. Blue Wing Teal, \$3.75 per pair. Also redheads, Gadwalls, Widgeons, Canvasbacks, Spoonbills, at reasonable prices, for propagating and scientific purposes. **GEORGE J. KLEIN**, Ellinwood, Kansas.

SAN LORENZO GAME FARM—BREEDER OF all kinds of pheasants; eggs in season; also birds for sale at all times. Visitors welcome. Write for price list. **Mrs. S. MATTHIESSEN**, San Lorenzo, Alameda Co., California. 7-16

HOYT'S CALIFORNIA PHEASANTRY, PRICE LIST. **FRED D. HOYT**, Hayward, California.

GRAY STAR PHEASANTRY

Breeder of all kinds of pheasants. Eggs in season. Pure brand, strong, healthy birds for sale. **GIFFORD GRAY**, 21 Ward St., Orange, N. J.

FOR SALE—Pheasants and eggs. Everything in the pheasant family. Pamphlet with order free. **BUCKWOOD PHEASANTRIES**, Dunfield, Warren Co., New Jersey. (101)

FOR SALE—BUFFALO AND ELK IN CAR LOAD lots or single. Deer, Antelope, Beaver, Mink, Mountain Lion, Pheasants and Game Birds. Eggs in season. **KENDRICK PHEASANTRIES**, Coronado Building, Denver, Colorado.

QUAIL, PARTRIDGES, WILD FOWL, DEER AND other animals. See display advertisement in this issue. **WM. J. MACKENSEN**, Proprietor Pennsylvania Pheasantry and Game Park.

CANADA WILD GEESE AND THEIR GOSLINGS—A limited number for sale now—the surest way to start breeding this species. We are the oldest and largest breeders of Canadas in this country. Black and White Swans, Wild Ducks, etc., for sale. **WHEALTON WATER FOWL FARMS**, Chincoteague Island, Va.

PIT GAME FOWL, COCKS, STAGS, HENS AND young trios, best strains, reasonable prices. **WALTER FORRISTER**, Framingham, Mass. 5t

FOR SALE—GOLDEN PHEASANTS, WRITE FOR prices. **FRED GUENTHNER**, 1538 Washington Ave., Piqua, Ohio.

FOR SALE—FIRST-CLASS BREEDING STOCK, two year old pinioned Lady Amhersts, Golden, Ringnecks, Reeves, Silvers. **ROBINSON BROS.**, Aldershot, Ontario, Canada.

CHINESE RINGNECK PHEASANTS AND **GRAY MALLARD DUCK EGGS. PHEASANT** **EGGS—\$25.00 PER HUNDRED. MALLARD** **EGGS—\$20.00 PER HUNDRED. HEMLOCK** **FARM, BOX 1011, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.**

PEAFOWL FOR SALE—FINE PEACOCKS AND hens, no relation. Send 25c. for book on peafowl, their care and habits. **SHADY BRANCH PLANTATION**, Monetta, S. C.

CANADA WILD GEESE. THREE YEARS OLD \$10.00 per pair. **L. E. GALLUP**, 2209 Ogden St., Omaha, Nebraska.

PHEASANT EGGS. RINGNECKED \$3.00, GOLDEN \$4.50 per dozen, guaranteed fresh fertile. **L. E. GALLUP**, 2209 Ogden St., Omaha, Nebraska.

FOR SALE—SILKIES. COCKS \$2.50, HENS \$3.00 Trio, 1 cock, 2 hens, \$8.00; one cock and four hens, \$10.00. Mallards—\$2.75 per pair, \$4.00 per trio. All rugged free range stock. Ringneck Pheasants—\$5.00 per pair. Golden—full plumage, \$10.00 per pair. Golden—year old, \$8.00 per pair. Silvers—full plumage, \$15.00 per pair. Silvers—year old, \$13.00 per pair. **LAKE GEORGE GAME FARM**, Lake George, N. Y.

FOR SALE—6 PAIRS, 2 AND 3 YEAR OLD PEACOCKS, \$15.00 a pair. 5 pair Lady Amherst Pheasants, \$15.00. 8 pair Golden, \$12.50 a pair. 3 pair Reeves Pheasants, \$15.00. 6 pair Mandarin Ducks acclimated, 1 year, full plumaged, \$18.00 a pair. 1 pair Wood Ducks, \$18.00. Also full line Foreign Birds of song and plumage. **J. L. OAKES**, Union Stock Yards, Denver, Colorado.

LIVE GAME WANTED

PRAIRIE GROUSE WANTED

I wish to purchase six pair of prairie grouse, also a ruffed grouse. Will pay a good price for same. Address **READER**, care Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., New York.

In writing to advertisers please mention The Game Breeder or sign your letters: "Yours for More Game."

WANTED—TWO HUNDRED HEN PHEASANTS. Must be healthy and all right in every way. Apply, giving price and particulars, to **E. STRONG**, Jamestown, North Carolina.

PHEASANTS WANTED

I am in the market for several hundred pheasants for immediate delivery. Will pay highest cash prices for large or small lots. **J. W.**, care Game Breeder, 150 Nassau St., N. Y.

WANTED—AVIARY OR FANCY PHEASANTS, quail, prairie chickens, mandarin and wood duck. Give full description and prices. **ROBERT HUTCHINSON**, Littleton, Colorado. 2t

WANTED—75 OR 100 PHEASANTS FOR BROOD stock, will take them in a bunch or in small lots. Birds to be delivered before the last of March. Would like them to run 3 to 1. Address, **R. E. BULLOCK**, Scarborough Beach, Maine.

WE WILL PAY TOP MARKET PRICE FOR

Ruffed Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse, Canadian Ruffed Grouse, Dusky Grouse. Also for Canvasback, Bufflehead, Old Squaw, Golden-eye, Ringbill and Lesser Scaup Ducks. **CHILES & CO.**, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

WANTED—WHITE PEAFOWL, EITHER SEX. Pied Peafowl, Soemmerring, Cheer, Hoki and German Peacock Pheasants, Ruffed Grouse, and White Squirrels. Also Swinboes; state price and number. **R. A. CHILES & CO.**, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

GAME EGGS

PHEASANT EGGS, PER DOZEN, ENGLISH RING-neck, \$3.00; Pure Chinese, \$3.50; Golden, \$4.00; Silver and Reeves, \$5.00; Amherst and Pure Mongolian, \$6.00. Write for circular describing brood coops, setting nests, pheasant feed and pheasant book. **SIMPSON'S PHEASANT FARM**, Corvallis, Oregon. (25)

WILD AND BRONZE TURKEY EGGS—CHICKEN eggs. Handsome Catalog, 2 cent stamp, showing pure wild gobbler from the mountain. **VALLEY VIEW POULTRY FARM**, Belleville, Pa. (24)

PHEASANT EGGS PER DOZEN

Golden, Silver, four dollars; Ringneck, three dollars; Amherst, eight dollars, also Buff Wyandottes, prize winners, Pen, 1 five dollars; Pen, 2 three dollars. One dollar deposit insures early delivery. **T. A. MENDENHALL**, Greenville, Ohio. (23)

PHEASANT EGGS—PER DOZEN, GOLDEN \$5.00, Ringneck \$3.50. One dollar deposit now insures early spring delivery. "Goldbank" **M. B. TURKEYS**. Big boned, lusty young toms, \$5.00 up. 6t

MRS. IVER CHRISTENSON Jamestown, Kan.

RINGNECK PHEASANT EGGS FROM PURE BRED stock. \$3.00 per setting of 15 eggs. All orders filled in the order received. All eggs strictly fresh when shipped. **EDWARD W. DOLAN**, Worthington, Minn. (25)

RINGNECKED PHEASANT EGGS, \$25.00 PER hundred; \$3.50 per dozen. Also a number of young cock birds, \$3.50 each. **F. SHAW**, Marlborough, N. Y. (25)

EGGS FROM WILD MALLARDS AT \$1.50 PER dozen. Birds \$1.50 each. Fall will soon be here. **E. G. SHOWERS**, Onalaska, Wis.

WILD MALLARD EGGS—FROM FINE, VIGOROUS birds on stream range. Also White Pekin Ducks and Mammoth Bronze Turkeys at \$2.50 per doz., \$15.00 per 100. Place order now to insure delivery when season opens. **INGERSOLL**, Wah-Wah-Taysee Lodge, Buffalo, Minn.

WILD MALLARD DUCK EGGS—\$12.00 HUNDRED, no limit, \$1.50 Dozen. English Caller Eggs, \$3.00 Dozen. Mail draft. **BREMAN CO.**, Danville Ill.

FOR SALE—GOLDEN PHEASANT EGGS FROM non-related birds. **S. H. GARNER**, Attleboro, Mass.

BANTAM AND PHEASANT EGGS—JAPANESE Silkies, Buff, White, Black Cochin, Golden Seabright, \$2.50 dozen. Chinese Pheasant \$3.50. Golden \$4, Silver \$5. Pure Mongolian \$6. **DOTY'S PHEASANTRY**, Marmot, Oregon.

ENGLISH RINGNECK PHEASANTS EGGS FOR sale—\$2.50 a dozen. **ISAAC SPENCER**, 10 Wayne Ave., Ipswich, Mass.

RINGNECK EGGS \$25 PER HUNDRED AND GOL-den \$6.00 per setting of 13 eggs. Young cock birds for sale \$3.60 each. **Mrs. EDGAR TILTON**, Suffern, N. Y.

GAMEKEEPERS

GAMEKEEPER WANTED—MARRIED OR SINGLE.

One who had some experience raising young Pheasants or Wild Duck. Fully state qualifications and wages expected. Room and board furnished. Good position for right man. **JOHN R. ANDERSON**, 649 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

WANTED—HEAD GAMEKEEPER FOR SMALL preserve on a noted private estate. Married man preferred and one that is experienced with pigeons and the production of squabs. Must be thoroughly qualified in every way and have a good record of proven ability. Apply fully to **Mr. PULTZ**, in care of Game Breeder 150 Nassau St., N. Y.

BOOKS

WANTED COPIES OF THE GAME BREEDER FOR

April and July, 1916. We will pay 20 cents each for a few copies of these numbers in good condition. Address **CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT, THE GAME BREEDER**, 150 Nassau St., New York.

"LUMINOUS BODIES," A VERY INTERESTING and instructive volume, by Charles Hallock. Price, \$1.00. Address: Sportsmen's Review Publishing Co., 15 W. Sixth St., Cincinnati, O.

OUR BOOK DESCRIBES FULLY THE 200 MOST valuable roots, herbs, etc., used in medicine. How to gather and prepare. War Prices and Address of Buyers postpaid, only 20c. **ROOT & HERB COMPANY**, West Milan, N. H.

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Vermin on a Grouse Moor.

Owen Jones, in, "A Gamekeeper's Notebook," gives the following list of vermin destroyed on a grouse moor in Inverness-Shire, Scotland: "11 foxes, 198 wild cats, 246 martens, 106 pole cats, 301 stoats and weasels, 67 badgers, 48 otters, 78 house cats going wild, 27 white-tailed sea eagles, 15 golden eagles, 18 ospreys, 98 blue hawks, 10 peregrine falcons, 7 orange-legged falcons, 211 hobby hawks, 75 kites, 5 marsh barriers, 63 goshawks, 285 common buzzards, 371 rough-legged buzzards, 3 honey-buzzards, 462 kestrels, 78 merlin hawks, 83 hen harriers, 6 gerfalcons, 9 ash-coloured or long blue-tailed hawks, 1431 carrion crows, 475 ravens, 35 horned owls, 71 common fern owls, 3 golden owls, 8 magpies. This bag was made in three years. A total of nearly 5000 head, giving an average of more than 1500 head a year or about 5 head a day."

Some of the predacious birds above listed are not considered as harmful today as they were when they were destroyed and the tendency both of employers and the modern keepers is to observe what game enemies do and to

spare a good number of birds which it was fashionable to destroy a few years ago.

A keeper soon discovers a destructive individual, which may belong to a beneficial species, and he should, of course, destroy such an enemy.

Granting that only a few grouse were taken each year by each of the above enemies which are admitted to be harmful, it is evident if no enemies be destroyed there would not be enough grouse in any season to warrant any shooting for sport, to say nothing about the market which is now abundantly supplied with grouse.

It must be evident to those who prefer game to vermin that the moor in question should produce thousands of grouse annually, as it does. If we knew the number of acres in the moor we easily could estimate the probable number of grouse in a good season.

Those who wish to have grouse on the prairie farms should see that most of the birds and eggs are not destroyed by cats, hawks, crows, foxes, coyotes, snakes and many other game enemies which are known to be harmful.

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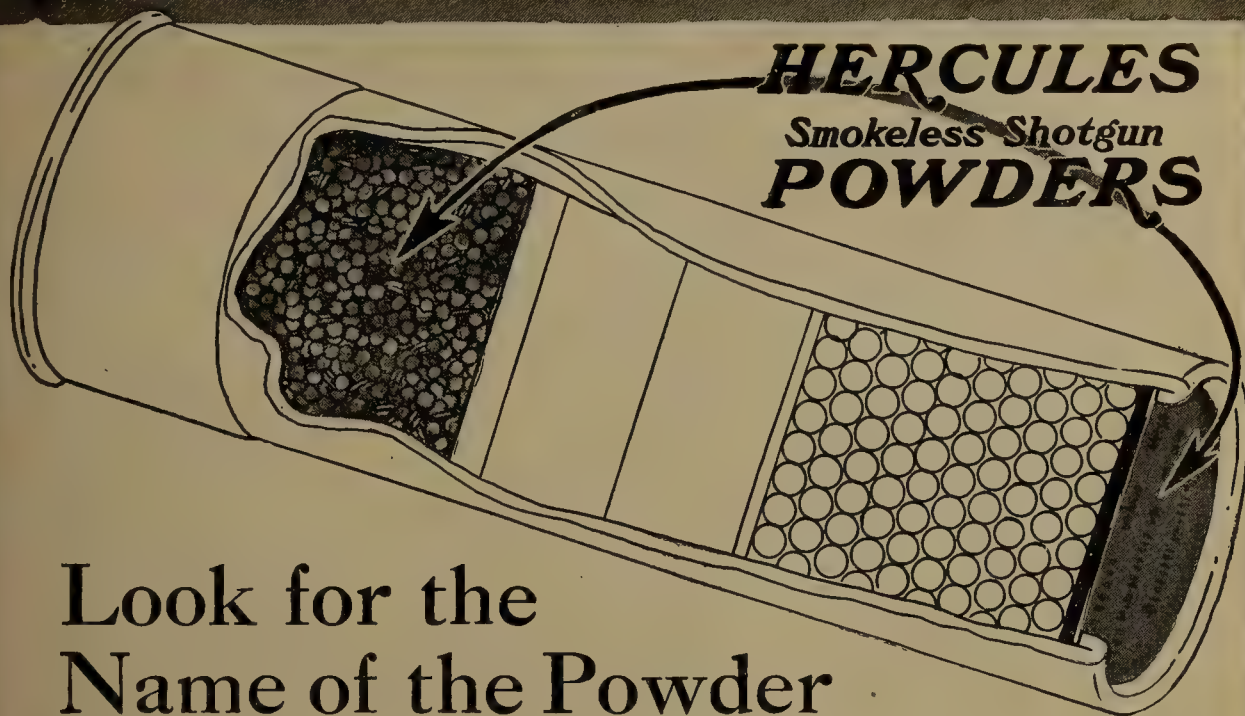
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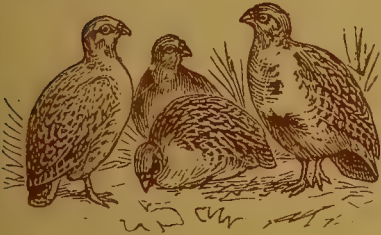
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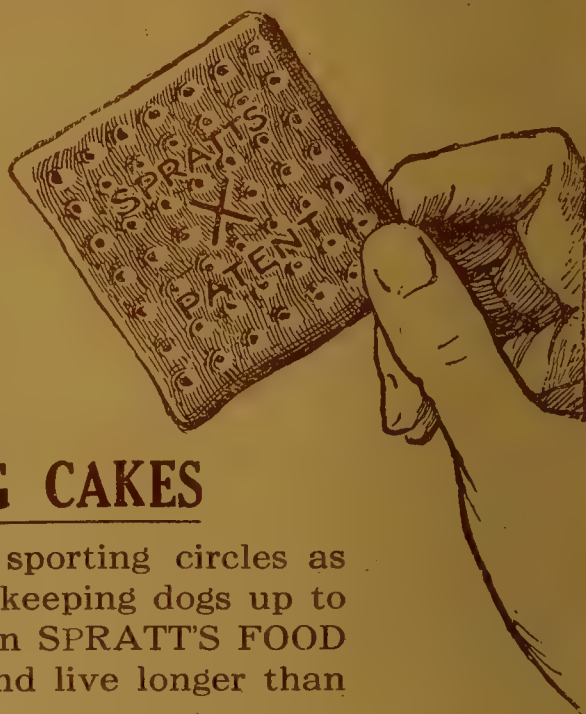
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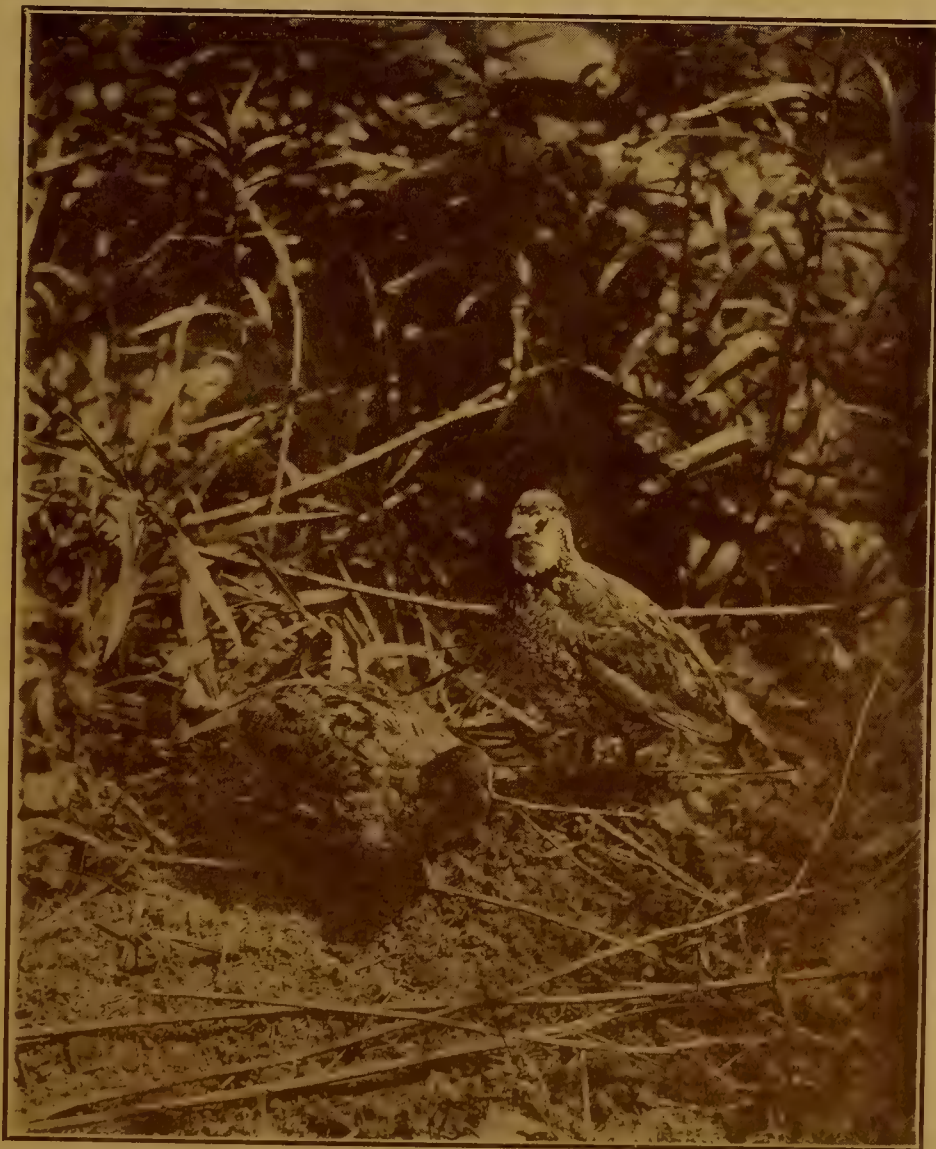
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JULY, 1917

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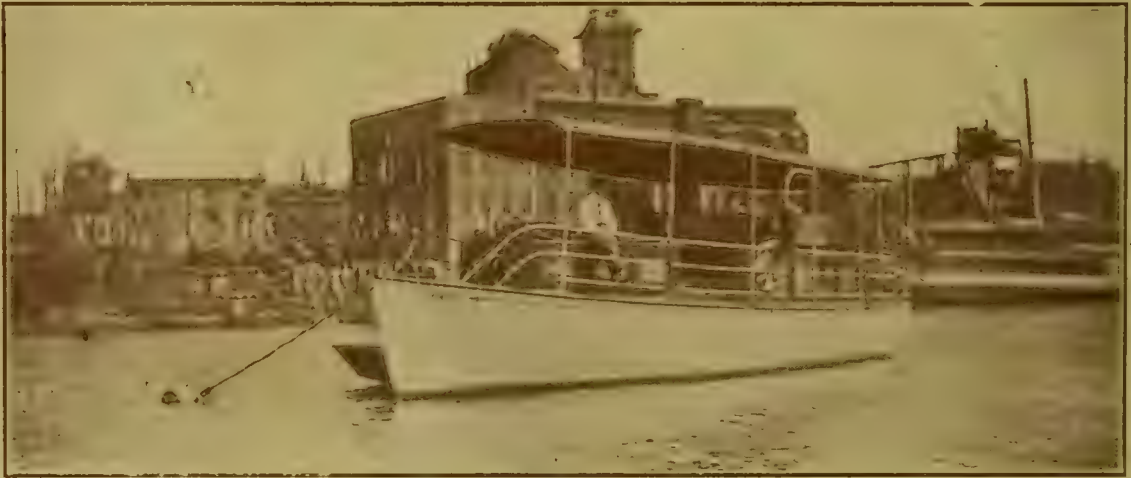
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The advertisement features a detailed illustration of three ducks in flight at the top. Below them, a Remington UMC 'Nitro Club' shotshell is shown vertically, with its base resting on a box of the same product. The box is labeled 'NITRO CLUB', 'STEEL LINED', '12 GA X7D8', '25', 'SMOKELESS', and '3 Drs. POWDER 1 1/4 Oz. 8 Shot'. A small Remington UMC logo is also visible on the box.

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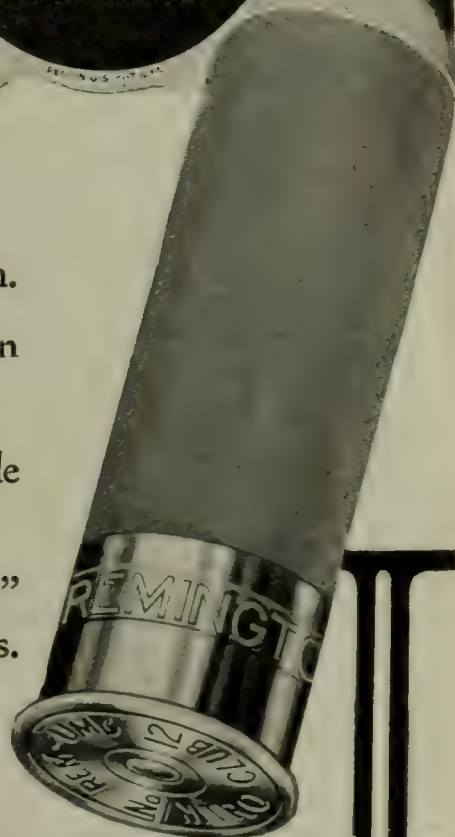
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The Game Breeder

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VOLUME XI

JULY, 1917

NUMBER 4



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Quail Preservation.

The matter to be surveyed with the most interest this month is the decision of the Conservation Commission of New York denying the application for an order prohibiting quail shooting on Long Island.

Everyone interested in the practical preservation of game and in the perpetuation of field sports in America will be delighted to read that the quail will not be placed in the song bird list on Long Island and that the breeding of quail will be continued, and the shooting will be lively, not only on the grounds of many quail clubs but also on the adjacent land where the birds will be found because of the overflow from places where they have been introduced and where they are properly looked after. The Game Conservation Society took an active interest in this important matter and it is largely due to the members of the society and to the readers of *The Game Breeder* to say that they properly presented the matter to the Conservation Commission. They all are much pleased with the decision. The activity of our members is well illustrated by the letter of Mr. George H. Guy, printed on another page.

We are receiving many congratulations for the good work done by the society, and we take pleasure in giving credit to our members for their excellent work in answer to our letter urging them to stop the proposed nonsense.

Foxes and Grouse.

Hon. Wm. R. Oates, Game and Fish Commissioner of Michigan says: "In

view of the fact that a genuine black fox at maturity is worth in the market for breeding purposes from \$3,000 up it would seem that any obstacle to their capture should be removed."

We suggest to the Michigan game commissioner that prairie grouse are now worth from \$10 per bird up, for breeding purposes, that this food bird is fully as valuable from an economic point of view as the ornamental furbearer—in fact food may be said to be even more important to all of the people than the ornamental furs are.

It is quite an easy matter to produce grouse in abundance on lands used for agriculture. The birds easily can be reared to a marketable size for 50 cents each, probably less when they are bred in large numbers in protected fields.

Why, Mr. Commissioner, do you advocate the taking and breeding of foxes for ornaments and not the taking and breeding of grouse for food? We are strongly in favor of both performances.

=

Wood-cock Scarce.

The Michigan game commissioner says in his report that wood-cock are "very scarce, an annual decrease noted."

We have seen the wood-cock recently quite near a house, not far from the great city of New York. They are there because a small pond and a little wood-cock cover are kept quiet, safe and attractive for the wild ducks, which disappeared entirely from the place a few years ago, but which are now abundant every season.

A little farther out from New York

the wood-cock are fairly abundant every season on some country estates where the owners take an interest in wild birds and prefer them to cats, dogs, rats, and wilder vermin and a lot of exterminating trespassers. With a bag limit of three birds per season there are enough gunners to exterminate the wood-cock on the opening day on all the places referred to if they be permitted to do so. When it is known how profitable game can be made on many places where there are worthless swamps and ponds the wood-cock will respond nicely to the protection given to other game. We would strongly urge the people who may be getting ready to put the wood-cock on the song bird list (he really is a good singer), to use some of their intelligence in working out plans to induce more people to get into the "sport producing." Mr. Jones hit it about right when he said: let the game keeper look after the vermin and the game will look after itself. It is highly important that the laws do not permit the employment of keepers. Remember always that few can be expected to spend much money on any project unless it pays to do so. Prohibit shooting, put the keepers out of business and there will be enough rabbit shooters in populous regions to attend to the wood-cock, "law or no law," as some are heard to remark.

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Bre'r Fox in Michigan.

The State Game Department of Michigan says, "A closed season on fox with its degree of protection to that animal is anything but economic in principle, is the unanimous opinion of the field force of this department.

"While it is conceded that the fox furs bring a considerable percentage of the total revenue which we derive from pelts, it can hardly be contradicted that this animal exacts a toll from our game resources by the killing of partridges (ruffed grouse), quail and song birds, which more than compensates for his revenue qualities and his services as a destroyer of mice and other rodents.

"That a single adult fox will kill more partridges in a season than a dozen aver-

age hunters is attested by the feathered evidence which strews the covert grounds. This is especially noticeable in the wholesale killing of young broods."

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"Near It, Very Near It."

The Michigan report says further: "Even in maturity the partridge seems an easy prey for this wily carnivore. Many observers attest the truth of the old nursery assertion that the fox will describe a rapid circle around the tree-roost of the bird causing it to grow dizzy and drop to the ground. Deputies of this department have witnessed tactics of the fox with a 'treed' partridge which would tend to substantiate the observations cited."

Possibly when it becomes necessary to put the "partridge" on the song bird list, he may be heard to sing: "Although I told my loving wife I ne'er was (dizzy) tight in all my life, but I was near it, very near it," etc.

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Market Prices.

Reports coming to our game census indicate that the prices for live pheasants were much higher during the winter and early spring than ever before. Some reports of recent sales of these birds at \$5 and \$6 for hens and \$4 for cocks are surprising since we believed that as the end of the laying season approached the prices for old birds would fall. We have heard, however, of recent sales of extra cock birds for \$3 and \$4 each. The Game Breeder certainly has been proved to be of great benefit to breeders who advertise in it. We heard of some sales (by people who did not advertise) at much lower prices. In fact some of our readers informed us they were able to secure small lots of birds at prices much below those they were getting in answer to their advertisements.

Live deer sold fairly well and we believe they will sell much better this year since venison nearly doubled in price and all the meat offered was sold. The game dinner of the Game Conservation Society was held late and we

found it difficult to get all the venison needed; many breeders reported that they were entirely sold out. There certainly should be good profit in breeding deer on suitable ground where they will find most of their food so long as venison sells for 38 cents per pound. We predict that the prices of venison will be even higher next fall and that it will remain up until the close of the war, when venison again will be imported.

Pheasant eggs sold well at \$20 and \$25 per hundred until June, when the prices fell somewhat as usual. Duck eggs sold at \$20, but sales later were reported for \$15 and some "near wild duck" eggs brought even lower prices. Eggs from true wild mallard and black ducks sold for \$25 per hundred, but comparatively few breeders have true wild birds and it is well known that in most cases newly trapped birds do not lay eggs. As the egg season closed there was a demand for more duck eggs and advertisers reported they were sold out.

There is a decided tendency to improve the character of the ducks on many game farms and "shoots" by introducing wild blood and there is a corresponding demand for true wild ducks.

Pintailed ducks, teal and some other species have been offered in good quantities at very low prices. We believe this is due to the fact that many breeders have not had much luck in getting eggs from these species. There is a big demand for teal eggs and the eggs of species other than the mallards and we are quite sure the game farmer who can secure the eggs of teal, black ducks, widgeon gadwalls and other ducks or who can offer birds guaranteed to lay will make a lot of money.

We have heard of some important experiments which will be made with teal and other ducks on some big new preserves in which we are interested and later we may have some interesting stories from these places. It seems a pity that many preserve owners prefer not to have us report what we see when we visit places where the shooting is lively. We understand where the trou-

ble lies, but we feel sure it soon will be removed and then people will be glad to permit us to report the abundance of game, lively shooting and good prices received for the extra food which must be sold because those who produce it can not use but a very small part of the "crop."

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A Good Sign.

There is a rapidly increasing demand for books about game breeding, and the book sales of the Game Conservation Society are increasing rapidly. Usually very few books are sold in the summer months, but during August the receipts from books were several times as large as the sales in the best three preceding winter months. The lively interest in wild duck breeding and the natural foods of wild ducks, no doubt increased the sales of our Wild Fowl and Waders which was the best seller in August of all the books handled by the society.

We would advise all of our readers who have not done so to purchase Dr. Job's excellent book, "The Propagation of Wild Birds." Dr. Job is at the head of the new department of applied ornithology of the Audubon Association, and his book is the only American book which covers the breeding and proper management of all species of birds.

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War Birds.

A writer, discussing conditions in Russia, in the New York World says: "Until we reached the interior of European Russia (traveling from Vladivostok to Petrograd), the dining car meals consisted mainly of fish, pheasant, wild duck and white bread."

In another clipping from a newspaper sent to The Game Breeder we are told that crows were for sale in Germany all through the winter for meat. "I recall," the correspondent says, "going into a grocery one evening in February and expressing my surprise when the old woman in charge told me she had nothing but oranges, lemons, cooking apples, spinach, a black root which is now eaten as a vegetable, and crows."

Bobwhites in New York City.

The quail in the upper part of New York City and in Van Cortland Park seem to be thriving. We heard a number of cock birds whistling in fields adjacent to Jerome Avenue, Sunday, June 16th.

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Elephant Hunting.

Elephant hunting is said to be good in the hill country west of Springfield, Mass. The big game was furnished by a circus from which five elephants escaped. Four elephants have been taken recently, "otherwise than by shooting," which should delight those who believe in restricting field sports. The hunt for the extra elephant was reported as still active.

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Another Society.

Mr. Morgan Wing, Mr. R. A. Chiles, Mr. E. A. Quarles and a few other game breeders have formed a new society to promote the interests of commercial game breeders; to protect purchasers from exploitation; to disseminate information useful to members.

The Game Conservation Society long has looked after the interests of commercial breeders and also it has at all times, had the sportsmen's interests in mind. Our activities are extended to the creation of shooting clubs and the creation of many new customers for the commercial breeders.

Competition is the life of trade and we welcome the new society and wish it all the good luck possible. Since all of the members of its board of directors are members of the Game Conservation Society all are readers of The Game Breeder and advertise in it when they have anything to sell, the two associations should think and act much alike, in fact, in perfect harmony. The dues of the new society are \$25.00 per annum.

Subscribe to The Game Breeder, \$1.00 a year.

Now is the time to advertise Birds and Deer.

Pheasants Increasing in Colorado.

From Live News Notes, The Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Co.

According to W. J. Morrill, Colorado State Forester, the Chinese Ring Necked Pheasants liberated a few years ago by public-spirited Coloradans, are becoming very plentiful in the agricultural district around Denver, north to the Wyoming state line and extending eastward from the foothills to a distance of 50 or more miles. Recently, Mr. Morrill rode in an automobile from Fort Collins to Greeley, about 30 miles; while no count was made, probably not less than 100 of these beautiful birds were observed in the fields close to the road. They are so indifferent to passers-by that they will barely walk out of the road when an automobile approaches.

One pair of birds evidently make their home on the campus of the Colorado Agricultural College, on the outskirts of Fort Collins.

FIVE YEARS' PROTECTION.

If absolute protection is continued to be given to these pheasants during the next five years, undoubtedly the area inhabited by them will materially increase to the eastward, and eventually all of the plains region of eastern Colorado will become well stocked with one of the most beautiful and gorgeous species of pheasants the Creator ever developed.

Their chief food during the summer is grasshoppers, of which Colorado has an abundant crop; in fact, the grasshopper plagues of forty or more years ago, known as "grasshopper years," are said to have originated on the plains of eastern Colorado. Possibly the stocking of these plains with pheasants, together with the cultivation of vast areas under non-irrigated farm practice, will be a powerful and even determining factor which will prevent a similar occurrence of grasshopper years.

WAR TIME FOOD SUPPLY.

With areas as well stocked with pheasants as some in this vicinity, the time is fast approaching when a little shooting, perhaps, can be permitted during a few days each fall; although at present it would seem from the standpoint of sport much like shooting hens in a barnyard. It is said, however, in Oregon that hunting these birds causes them to become wary and shrewd in baffling hunters. The majority of the citizens here, however, are at present contented to see the birds half tame and to forego the pleasure of shooting them, as is shown in the action of the last session of the Legislature, which refused to open a season. If the war should eventually bring about famine conditions, the people in this vicinity have a supply of many hundreds of thousands of pheasants to draw upon. There appears to be no reason why vast areas of the south and southwest could not be as successfully stocked with these pheasants as is this region, and provide fine hunting for everybody.



The Dusette Wild Duck Ranch.

MALLARDS AND NEAR MALLARDS.

F. B. DUSETTE.

I am sending you some pictures of my ducks as we breed them on our ranch. I took a great interest in the comments the breeders made on the picture of so-called wild ducks on the January cover of your magazine. I know that the editor of The Game Breeder knows a wild duck when he sees one and I think the magazine has done a great deal to cause all our wild mallard breeders, as well as the buyers of eggs and breeding stock, to realize the great difference between the pure wild ducks and the so-called mallards which in most cases are of no breed of any kind.

I have been told by some good game

breeders, who claimed to be old breeders, that they got a setting of eggs five or six years ago from a noted breeder and had only bred from the choicest of them all this time, claiming that they now have a very fine grade of breeders.

There is where most of our mallard breeders have made a big mistake as this is what I call in-bred stock and almost worthless; but the average buyer will purchase this quality of stock and eggs because they think they are getting pure-bred birds and eggs at about one-fourth what it costs to produce pure-bred birds that are not in-bred.

I have only been breeding mallards



Pure Bred Black Ducks.

Teal, Widgeon and Pintai's.

and black ducks for five or six years. I started with a pair of each kind that I trapped on our shooting ground. Each year I have trapped from twenty-five to as high as ninety-six ducks (in 1916). I have a permit to do this from our Game Department.

By adding new blood each season my birds do not in-breed by mating with birds from the same nest, a thing which no wild bird will do in their wild state or where they have their liberty.

I hatched about 2,500 ducklings last season and brought over 2,000 to matur-

ity, using a mammoth incubator, 1,800 egg size, and chicken brooders. I have very small losses. Some of my hatches produced over seventy-five per cent of the eggs put into the machine last season.

So far this season my ducks have not laid extra well and I have not set any eggs to this date (May 28), as I have been kept busy filling orders for eggs.

I only kept 200 breeders and sixty of these are black ducks. I have also a few blue and green-winged teal, wid-geon, pin-tails, and wild Canada geese.

GAME BREEDING IN MAINE.

RICHARD E. BULLOCK.

We have one thousand ring-neck pheasant eggs hatching today, June 11, a few hundred more are incubating and we have more eggs to set. We also have a few birds out on the rides which are doing nicely. The bad weather, however, is staying right with us and if it does not hold up by the end of this week it may go hard with some of the little birds.

We are, also, going into the rearing of mallards and I have just finished a pen 700 feet long and 300 feet wide. Half of this is in a pond and I think the place is one of the best for the work that I ever saw. We have quite a few mallards and some little fellows and more hatching every day. Our birds are all clear wild stock.

We find that the best food for rearing young wild mallards is stale bread cut into slices and dried. When feeding, we put a few slices in a pail and pour over it some hot water and let it soak for fifteen or twenty minutes. Then if it is too hot we add enough cold water to make it just warm. We then

sprinkle in about one-third of clean sand and this is very much needed and also a little bone meal is very good. The mash should not be too thick or too thin, so that when it is put in a low pan a little of the water will be left on top. If the growing ducks are fed this way you need not give them any water until they are two or three weeks old. Never give cold water; always make it warm and give the first water just at night or on a rainy day. Put a rock or something in the pan to keep the young birds from getting their tails wet, for once their tails get wet and they get on their backs, if help is not there, it is all up with them. Cold water and hot sun are sure death to little mallards.

The best pen is made out of boards on good green grass. For twenty little ducks a pen 10 x 8 feet is recommended; and when the little fellows get the grass worn down move it to a clean place.

Always keep a small pile of sand or gravel in the pen and feed on it.

I have always had the best of luck in raising young ducks this way and I have reared them by the thousands.



Mexican Quail—Imported by W. J. Mackensen and mounted by Taxidermist Fred Sauter.

QUAIL AND PARTRIDGE BREEDING FOR SPORT AND FOR PROFIT.

By DWIGHT W. HUNTINGTON.

The system on which we work in the nesting season is to assist the methods of nature in every way we can, but never to supplant them by methods of our own, recognizing that the partridge is a better parent than any substitute we can hope to provide, and that birds reared under natural conditions in a wild state make the best and healthiest stock.—Aymer Maxwell.

Our quails or partridges, like the gray partridges of Europe, thrive best in agricultural regions. The range of the bobwhite rapidly was extended with the increase of cultivated areas in the West, and the birds increased in numbers for a time when bigger game was plentiful and there was comparatively little quail shooting. When the newly-made farms were inclosed with rail fences with their angles full of wild foods and safe covers (weeds, grasses, briars, sumac, wild rose, furnishing many seeds and berries), and when there was much protective undergrowth in the adjacent woodlands, the land was far more attractive and safe than it became with the introduction of wire fences, close cultivation, and the destruction of the under-brush and wild foods in the woodlands. I have revisited some of my favorite quail grounds in the West where we made famous bags of game, only to

observe that large areas had been rendered as uninhabitable for the quail as the marshes are for ducks when they have been drained in the interest of agriculture. Neither game laws, game officers, nor gunners should be held accountable for the disappearance of the game in places where it can not survive because of the loss of nesting sites, covers and foods.

All sportsmen know that plowed fields, meadows, pastures, fields planted in fall wheat, and other naked fields surrounded by wire fences and entirely devoid of briars, weeds and other covers and foods, will not harbor any quail. No one would think of running his dogs over such grounds with the hope of finding any game. The prairie grouse, also, rapidly became extinct on vast closely tilled areas and it would be as impossible to introduce and preserve either quail or grouse on such lands, without first re-

storing some of the natural covers and foods, as it would be to restore wild ducks on marshes which have been drained.

We should always have in mind the fact that quail need foods and covers during every month of the year. Fields which appear to be well adapted to the birds during the harvest and shooting season, when many weeds have sprung up in the stubbles, soon may be made uninhabitable by the plough. Quail can not survive on lands where all covers are ploughed under leaving no weeds and briars or protecting covers or foods of any kind even at the fences. The birds are not only exposed to their natural enemies, but also they must starve when all their natural foods have been destroyed. Quail are protectively marked birds and rely upon concealment to escape their many enemies.

Closely cultivated areas and even grass lands and pastures easily can be made safe and attractive by planting strips of cover and food at the sides of the fields and by sub-dividing the larger fields with hedges bordered with some of the natural foods for the quail and briars to protect them from enemies. Where a farm is owned or rented, especially for shooting, small fields containing a few acres can be planted especially for the birds and if some old logs, stumps and other barriers be introduced, about which weeds, briars and wild grasses are permitted to grow, many birds will nest in such fields and be safe from farm machinery as well as from many natural enemies which find it almost impossible to take quail in briar patches. Quail are especially fond of nesting in such covers; the logs and stumps affording a sense of security from a rear attack; the many natural foods and briars make the places especially safe and attractive.

Small areas, such as are here suggested, may be planted with foods and covers on grass lands and pastures, but on grazing lands the feeding and cover ground should be protected by fences to keep out the animals. Very inexpensive fences, made of rails or a few strands of wire, are all that are necessary.

A few rows of corn (field corn, sugar corn or pop corn), planted at the sides of the closely cultivated fields will make excellent covers, especially if weeds, wild grasses and briars be permitted to grow at frequent intervals in the corn. The grain can be used for winter feeding and the stalks can be made into excellent winter shelters.

The more closely cultivated areas can be made to yield a big crop of quail without interfering with the agricultural operations, excepting on the small areas which must be reserved for nesting and feeding grounds for the birds during the period when the weeds are plowed under and the fields are made uninhabitable.

It is well known that the conversion of grain farms into dairies always results in a loss of the quail; these birds quickly disappear, also, where the lands are laid in grass. A hay-farm cannot be expected to yield a good crop of quail unless it be treated as I have suggested.

One of our most interesting quails, the masked bob-white (a bird very similar to our common quail, excepting that the throat of the male is black instead of white), became extinct in Southern Arizona, not on account of the shooting but because its home grounds were overstocked with cattle which destroyed its natural foods and nesting sites. I have a record of these birds breeding in a wild state not far from New York in a place where, no doubt, they were introduced by accident, the parent stock being shipped with some bobwhites trapped in Mexico.

Maxwell, in his book about the English partridges, says that farms which once carried a fine head of game soon became useless for purposes of sport when laid down in grass. No inducement will persuade partridges to stay in any appreciable numbers where the land is unbroken. The only way to keep up a respectable stock under these conditions is to plough a certain portion of the land—about ten acres to every two hundred of grass is sufficient—and to grow some cereal crop for the exclusive benefit of the game. On graz-

ing lands, he says, it is necessary to fence the grain patches. It would be a good plan in America, where we have more vermin than there is in England, to plant a border of black-berry and other briars about the fences to protect the birds from their natural enemies.

Closely cultivated areas, usually, are comparatively free from ground vermin and a good beat keeper easily can control the winged enemies of the game so as to make all the fields produce an abundance of game provided some special cover and foods be arranged at frequent intervals. Small thickets and wood lots can be made attractive by introducing briar covers and foods about their borders when needed. The farmer, if the shooting is rented, should be compensated for the land reserved for covers and nesting sites, but a sale of a very little of the game produced will provide the funds to more than fully compensate him. When the shooting is rented, as it is in many places for a few cents per acre, or about the amount of the taxes; a club can well afford to rent some land especially for nesting and feeding places and the expense per gun will not be large. The more evenly distributed the covers and feeding places are the more uniformly the game will be distributed; the sportsmen can count on good shooting in every field and not at widely separated likely places, where, under existing conditions, some indifferent shooting may occur. It is wise to make the most attractive plantings for the game in the central portions of the preserve in order to hold many of the birds at a distance from the boundary.

Areas which are not closely cultivated require different treatment to make and keep the quail plentiful. In places where agriculture has waned; where farms have been abandoned and where the weeds, briars and brush have become over abundant, often there will be found plenty of some kinds of natural foods; but entirely too much cover; such dense covers harbor many natural enemies in places where it is most difficult to control them. Grounds of this character

can be much improved by cutting long rides through the cover, and these and the abandoned fields should be planted with wheat, potatoes and other grains and vegetables, whatever will be most likely at least to pay the cost of production. Such ground, if the natural enemies of the game be controlled can be made to yield many ruffed grouse. The western farms, where quail preserving is undertaken, can be made to yield many prairie grouse. A few pheasants can be purchased in the autumn and liberated and those which escape the guns should nest in a wild state provided the ground be made free from vermin.

A few ducks, also, may be introduced and permitted to rear their young beside the small ponds and streams. The hand-rearing of ducks and pheasants, however, should not be undertaken on quail preserves with the idea that the keepers can attend to this. Beat keepers should not be permitted to handrear these birds since their entire time is needed in the fields and woods. Pheasant rearing and wild duck rearing only should be undertaken on places where the club dues are comparatively large. Quail shooting can be made much less expensive and to my mind far more interesting than the shooting of hand-reared game is. I would by no means, however, decry the last-named sport, and the more places which can afford both kinds of shooting with two sets of keepers the better it will be for sport not only within but outside of the preserved areas.

The ratio of increase of all game is geometrical and in the absence of losses due to natural enemies, climate, fires, floods, farm machinery, and other less important causes, the progeny of a few pair of quail soon will over-run a good sized farm and restock the surrounding territory. If each nest contains only twelve eggs the progeny of a single pair would amount to over six million quails in eight years, provided there be no losses. Quails often lay more than twelve eggs and sometimes rear more than one brood in a season. The possibilities of making the quail plentiful on

attractive ground if the checks to their increase be only partially eliminated, are evident.

It is absolutely necessary to employ a beat-keeper to look after the birds and to control their natural enemies. The individual or club which does not employ a keeper should not shoot much, if any, game since, as I have often pointed out, the birds can not survive the losses due to shooting and to their many enemies and climate at the same time. This is true *a fortiori* when cats, dogs, and rats are numerous and when their natural covers and foods are destroyed. A good keeper can save most of his birds at the nesting time and can see that there are few losses even in severe winters. Good keepers, year after year, show plenty of quail to the guns which, in the absence of the keepers, would have perished.

The duties of the beat keepers are in the fields and woods, where with traps and guns they keep down vermin and where they see that nests are safe, and that foods are plentiful at all seasons. Their work is quite different from that of the keepers who hand-rear pheasants and ducks.

Some of the best beat keepers I know came from England and Scotland, and they quickly learned the habits of our quail and their enemies and easily have made the birds abundant on large areas. I recall a pleasant stroll with one of the best of them, Jack Armstrong, shortly before his untimely death. Many birds had just been shot on the ground, but the dogs pointed one covey after another, at short intervals, and the keeper asked me if I did not think the birds were over-abundant. He referred to the black snakes and hawks as among the worst enemies of the game and evidently knew how to control these and other enemies.

I know some native keepers, also, who have done wonders with the quail. The requirements of a good beat keeper are: An ability to shoot and trap the game enemies; a knowledge of the habits of the game and the particular foods and covers which make the ground safe and

attractive. Most of the keepers are good dog trainers and understand how to keep the dogs in good condition and well trained. A beat keeper in the older countries usually is given 1,000 or 1,200 acres and he is expected to know the habits of his birds, their nesting and feeding places and how to look after them and see that they have the best chance to increase in numbers. Where the preserve is a large one there should be a head keeper and a number of under-keepers each having his own beat of 1,000 to 1,500 acres to look after.

Quail need dusting places and grit as well as food. They will wander from places where it is desirable to hold them to find a dust bath to their liking and can not be expected to go without grit. Often the birds resort to roads and they may decide to go and remain outside of the preserved area. In potato fields, corn fields and others often there are good dusting places, but these easily can be made or improved, by spading up a small area and adding a little sand or ashes. A few handfuls of grit can be thrown down by the keepers at intervals, when he makes his rounds, and some crushed oyster shells will prove acceptable during the nesting period. Attention to such small details will hold the birds evenly distributed on the preserve and prevent straying. The best and safest place for a dust bath is at the edge of a briar patch.

Quail often thrive in places at a distance from water. They are said at most times to get enough from the dew and from the fruits, but it is advisable to select a well-watered ground for a preserve since in very dry seasons I have known quail to desert most likely fields and to seek ditches and stream, often at a distance. In places where there is no water some poultry fountains easily may be provided in dry seasons and, no doubt, they will hold the birds. Grit should be abundantly supplied with the grain when quails are fed in the winter.

Since the cock bird likes a tree, post or fence from which he can whistle to his mate during the nesting season, it is

a good plan in preparing safe and attractive nesting sites to select a fence corner or to plant the briars and foods near a tree or at the edge of a wood. In a pasture or grass field one or two fruit trees can be planted near the proposed nesting site and the fruit will prove attractive to the birds and will tend to hold them in the autumn. The quail preserver should see that there be at least one attractive and safe nesting place in every field and he should endeavor to see that the birds nest where the nests will not be destroyed by farm

machinery and where they will be protected as far as possible from the ground and winged enemies which may escape the attentions of the game keeper, as some surely will.

In the nesting season the keeper should visit the nests without disturbing the sitting birds and protect them from vermin. A few years ago it was deemed best, in England, that partridge nests should escape attention altogether, but Maxwell says: "In the text book of today this sentence should be re-worded and read. Certainly it is best that no partridge nest should escape attention."

WILD BRED PHEASANTS.

When pheasants are bred wild in the fields and woods the cost of rearing is very small in comparison with the cost of hand-rearing. In America vermin is so plentiful that the losses of wild-bred birds, undoubtedly, will be large on many areas, which otherwise are very suitable for pheasants.

The pheasant is said to be a notably bad mother. There are stories of hen pheasants wandering on regardless of the fact that the little chicks have fallen in a ditch or have been left behind because they could not get over or through an obstruction. One reason assigned for the fact that hen pheasants are bad mothers is that these birds have been hand-reared so long (the eggs being hatched and brooded by domestic hens), that they have lost the maternal instinct to a large extent.

On a preserve, thirty miles from London, many pheasants are wild-bred every season and the shooting is uniformly good. After taking part in a covert shoot on this preserve, Captain Aymer Maxwell says, he was surprised to learn that no pheasants were ever hand-reared there. Lord Verulam, the owner, supplied him with an interesting account of the wild pheasants.

The average yield of pheasants is

from 1,400 to 2,000 per year. The pheasants are not fed at all between April and October, after which maize is thrown down in the woods in proportion as they require it. In 1910 the total maize during the year was 27 quarters; also eight loads of barley in the straw. No new blood is ever introduced, the owner being a confirmed believer in in-breeding, believing that thus you obtain a race which is most fit for the conditions prevailing in the locality.

Describing how, in his opinion, "that (so-called) bad mother, the hen pheasant, came to be such a model matron, as she undoubtedly is, on this estate," the owner of the preserve says: "Many years ago it occurred to me that it might be possible to improve the parental qualities of the pheasant by the force of example, and having learned that the period of incubation of that excellent mother, the partridge, was the same as that of the pheasant, I instructed my keepers to place two pheasant eggs in each of a large number of partridges' nests, with the result that I have seen the young pheasant at an early stage of its life in the covey with the young of the partridge.

This was continued for several years and no pheasants have been turned out

for a long time; and though I cannot, of course, state definitely that our remarkable show of wild pheasants is the direct result of this experiment, still, unless a better explanation can be suggested, I think myself justified in believing that the object with which the idea was associated has been, so far as I can see, attained. For we have actual experience of the hen pheasant sitting through 60 hours of rain, and hatching 11 chicks out of 12 eggs, while two partridges in the same covert close by (presumably being the smaller birds and so unable to withstand the weight of rain), gave up and left their nests, after 40 hours of the same storm.

Our pheasants are all over the fields in September, and seem to care nothing about the coverts, which seems to be witness of the influence of the teaching of the partridge coming out in the foster children.

We shoot cocks and hens the first time over, without limit, and spare all hens afterwards."

In answer to a query as to the question of pheasant eggs hatching before those of the partridge when under a common mother, Lord Verulam wrote:

"With regard to putting pheasant eggs into partridge nests—my recollection is that Mr. Tegetmeier told me that the period of incubation was the same

in both partridges and pheasants, but it is a long time ago, so I will not swear positively. But whatever the period may be, I started the experiment after hearing what he said, and it seems to have been successful, so I must leave it at that. I never heard of eggs being left in a nest unhatched, at least not in any way which would be considered unusual."

In America many experiments have been made with common barnyard hens or bantams for foster mothers, permitting the young birds to run at large with the hens during the day time and shutting them up at night in their coops. Birds so reared on suitable ground where they are fed when the natural foods become scarce, often provide good and comparatively inexpensive shooting. Dried currants and raisins fed with corn, wheat or acorns will keep the birds on attractive ground.

Wild rose and blackberry thickets, planted at the fences and in occasional small patches in attractive fields and woods, will make them safe and attractive. Even pastures and other unattractive fields can be made to hold pheasants; but where live stock is pastured on the ground the briar patches, which should be used as feeding places as well as nesting sites, should be inclosed with a fence of some kind.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Mallard Breeding.

George A. Buckstaff says: "The great marshes a few miles from our farm attract thousands of wild mallard ducks. We draw on the wild flocks for fresh blood in our domesticated flock. Mallards are the most easily raised and most profitable as a table poultry of any fowl we know. As decoys they are perfect.

A mallard hen will lay her eggs in a brush pile, under a shrub or in other secluded place, hatch her brood of a dozen or fifteen, raise them until they

are a month old and half grown before coming back to the farm yard for feed.

Mr. Buckstaff quotes Prof. J. C. Halpin as saying that the domesticated mallards retain many of the instincts peculiar to their wild nature. When the mother duck and ducklings are out in the field, let a strange object approach, and with one quack the little brown birds hide in the grass close to the earth. Little food is given his mallards because "they fatten quickly and become lazy."

One hundred and fifty-two skunk

breeders in Michigan own four thousand and twenty-seven skunks.

Three prairie grouse breeders in Michigan own two pairs of prairie chickens and one pair of sharptails.

We have readers who really own hundreds of prairie chickens and sharptails, but they say nothing about it since the birds are bred wild in protected fields and the breeders have no license for this, the kind of game farming which is the best method since it is inexpensive and produces the best results.

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An Amusing Error.

In the story of "The Big Duck," in the June Game Breeder, the fact that the giant appeared to the writer when shooting *over* decoys, by a typographical error was made to read, when he was shooting *our* decoys. This is quite as bad as the thrilling story in a newspaper about a battle-scarred veteran who appeared in type as "the bottle-scarred veteran."

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Sales and Shipment of Game Under Permit in Michigan.

In Michigan (July 1, 1914, to July 1, 1916) permits were issued to breeders to sell and ship 339 deer, 4 elk, 2,743 wild ducks, 10 geese, 17 pheasants, 4 grouse and 2 partridges. The report indicates that many of the ducks were sold as food and shipped "dressed." It does not appear how many of the deer and other game were sold as food. We regard it as highly important that much game should be eaten otherwise it quickly will become overabundant and the prices will fall.

We feel sure there must be an error in the number of pheasants sold since we are quite sure our readers have sold many live pheasants. Possibly the permits only relate to game sold as food. While the figures are not large, they indicate a good start. Michigan soon will be selling many tons of game and the State department will become of great economic importance. The State commissioner is to be congratulated on the good work accomplished. A few

years ago the sale of a wild food was impossible.

The quickest way to make game abundant is to make it profitable. As a matter of fact the prices are highly satisfactory; the only trouble in some States is that it is illegal to receive the profits after the quail and other desirable foods have been produced.

Enough States now permit the sale of game to make it an easy matter to make the United States the biggest game producing country in the world. The prohibition States, where it still is a crime to produce food, in time will observe how lively the new industry is in other places, and, no doubt, they will get live State game officers and wake up.

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The Cost of a Pheasant.

Last month we printed Mr. Bigelow's story of how he reared pheasants in Massachusetts at a cost of 35 cents per bird.

Capt. Aymer Maxwell gives the following as his estimate of the cost of rearing pheasants in England: "The cost of rearing pheasants is largely influenced by the many varying conditions of each particular case. Taking everything into account, including rent, rearing, feeding, wages, incidental expenses, depreciation of plant and interest on capital expenditure, a pheasant is probably a cheap bird if he has cost about seven shillings by the time he is shot."

The items rent and feeding are, no doubt, much higher in England than they are in America, especially the first named item. Shooting rights or rentals are very cheap in America, where there is an abundance of land, and they are much higher in England, where the area suitable for shooting is comparatively small. There are many "shoots" in America where the shooting is rented for five to ten cents per acre, or \$32 to \$64 per square mile, per annum. Wages of keepers, on the other hand, are much higher in America than they are in England. A keeper who gets \$75 per month and cottage in America would receive about \$15 or \$20 per month in England. It

is customary, however, in England to have more keepers on a given area than are usually employed in America.

There is quite a difference in the cost of rearing, stated by Mr. Bigelow—35 cents per bird—and the estimate of Captain Maxwell—\$1.75 per bird. We shall publish some estimates of other readers and we especially wish to obtain figures from those who keep accurate accounts of their expenses.

=

Light Feeding.

Good game keepers underfeed rather than overfeed their young birds especially where insect food is plentiful.

The young pheasant obtains much exercise as well as food when chasing grasshoppers and other insects in the grass. The young wild duck fares much better when he can obtain much exercise chasing insects and we have observed them chasing young frogs and small fish when they are reared on marshy ground and when they have access to shallow water. The water should be very shallow and warm to insure the best success and where young ducks are reared under hens they should be driven from the water early in the afternoon before it turns cold and they may well be kept in their breeding yards on cold days until they are several weeks old. Many and probably most keepers do not let their young birds enter the water until they are six or eight weeks old.

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An Inquiry About Woodcock.

Mr. E. W. Nelson, Chief of the Biological Survey, writes that they are making extended inquiries about the woodcock and asks us to suggest to readers of *The Game Breeder* that they furnish information along the lines requested in the following letter:

Editor, *The Game Breeder*.

We are making extended inquiries in regard to the present status of the woodcock with a view properly to protect it under any new regulations that may appear to be necessary.

A letter, copy of which is enclosed,

has been sent to several hundred sportsmen and others in the territory included within the woodcock range and much valuable and interesting, although conflicting data, is being received in response thereto.

We shall be obliged if you will suggest to the readers of *The Game Breeder*, who have not already done so, that they furnish us any information they may have along the lines requested in our letter to sportsmen on the subject.

Your cooperation in this matter will be much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

E. W. NELSON,

Chief, Biological Survey.

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Encouragement of Game Breeding.

Hon. Wm. R. Oates, Game and Fish Commissioner of Michigan, says in his excellent report: "Authorities agree that there is no greater incentive to an interest in wild life and its conservation than lies in the possibilities of utilizing a portion of it for commercial gain. So long as such use of it does not intrude to an appreciable extent on the rights of the people, I believe that the breeding of wild life for the market should be encouraged. Water fowl, pheasants, wild turkeys, deer and fur-bearing animals, life which is constantly falling prey to other animals or untoward conditions in the wilds, can be made to yield in captivity a private revenue to breeders which indirectly benefits us all.

"Our present breeders' license law is inadequate to meet the requirements for propagating animal life in captivity, and I am recommending amendments to conform to conditions."

We observe that the quail, prairie grouse, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse and blue grouse, which the report tells us are getting scarce, and which on this account most need the attention of game breeders, are not mentioned as birds which "can be made to yield a private revenue to breeders." Any of the birds named can be made to yield several times as much money as a mallard and there can be no better food than quail and grouse.

Audubon and all the other naturalists praise the edible qualities of these our best game birds. Why not give them a chance to become plentiful and cheap?

Lead Poisoning.

Our readers will remember the ac-

count we published of wild ducks being poisoned by eating the shot taken from the shallow water on some California preserves and elsewhere. Capt. Maxwell says the pheasants are sometimes poisoned by eating yew, ivy, and lead pellets picked up after the shooting.

THE BLACK HEAD DISEASE.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE.

(Continued from May Number.)

It not uncommonly happens that a turkey hen disdains all the owner's attempts at artificial nest building and will select some unexpected place. In such cases, unless the hens are followed and the nesting place found, many of the eggs may be lost by freezing during the early part of the nesting period. Moreover, the hens must be tracked surreptitiously for if they realize that they are being followed or watched, or if they are alarmed while on the nest, they will frequently leave it and not return, but go on the hunt for a new nesting place. If the range is small all the nest boxes should be examined late each afternoon. If it is large much time may be saved through an attempt to locate the nests that are being used, and by examining these only, at the times when the eggs are to be collected.

As soon as the first egg is removed from a nest, it should be replaced by a nest egg. Failure to do this frequently causes the hen to leave the nest and seek a new one. After several eggs have been laid a second nest egg should be added, and these two will usually serve to maintain such a bond of attraction that all the other eggs may be removed as fast as they are laid without danger of disturbance. Under such conditions, so long as the hen is not annoyed by dogs, or by too close following she will continue to lay and the broody period is deferred. Hens, however, differ markedly in this respect and some will start the incubation of a single egg. Occasionally a hen will persist in sitting upon her nest

eggs after a dozen or more eggs have been removed from her nest. In such a case she may be supplied with fertile eggs to incubate, or all eggs, nest eggs included, may be removed from the nest. As a result she will usually return to laying within a week to ten days, but may choose another nest for the later litter.

It sometimes happens that when the range is wide a nesting hen is overlooked and is not discovered until she has completed laying her first litter and has commenced incubation. In such a case it may be well to allow her to continue the sitting after provision has been made to prevent her ranging off with the young poults after hatching. This may be accomplished by placing about the nest a triangle (about four feet on a side) of ten-inch boards. This seldom disturbs the hen if it is accomplished during her absence, and it suffices not only to confine the young after hatching, but to prevent skunks from despoiling the nest during the absence of the mother for meals and exercise. After hatching the young poults may be brought closer home, the mother accompanying, or they may be given to ordinary hens on a restricted range, and cared for by methods subsequently to be described.

INCUBATION AND HATCHING.

It is seldom practicable to permit the incubation of the eggs under the mother turkey, at least in the case of the first litter. The continued removal of successive eggs from the nest, in which are left a few china eggs, will cause the hen

to continue her laying until thirty to forty, or in some cases even from fifty to sixty, eggs have been laid. The last litter may in some cases be left to the mother turkey to incubate during the latter part of June or early July. The eggs collected earlier should be set, in successive lots, at intervals of not more than fourteen days, either in an incubator or under ordinary hens. If many are to be hatched the former is preferable, while, if only a few are to be set, a broody hen accommodating eight to ten eggs, depending upon her size, will be found more satisfactory. In case the incubator method is employed, ordinary hens should be set on china eggs in nest boxes on the permanent range about two weeks before the turkey eggs are due to hatch.

After hatching the young poults should be left in the incubator a short time to dry off. They are then carried in a covered basket at night and placed in groups of twelve to fourteen under the sitting hens. The china eggs are at the same time removed with as little disturbance as possible. If a lantern is being employed it should be kept behind the nest box where the light will not excite the sitting hen. It is a wise precaution to place not more than one poult under a hen at first. One then waits quietly by for three to five minutes to ascertain whether the hen will accept the change. This can usually be learned by listening to the hen. After a little experience one easily learns to recognize the faint satisfied clucks which signify the full acceptance of the new situation and the slight muscular efforts on the part of the wings and legs to tuck the young poult safely beneath the feathers. In case the hen clucks loudly, half rises from the nest and remains in this attitude, one may as well leave her and pass on to the next nest. If the young poults were given such a mother they would most likely be found in the morning pecked to death, or huddled and chilled in the corner of the nest box as far as possible from the ugly parent. A young poult learns within a few hours whether this strange bunch of feathers means warmth and protection or chas-

tisement; and if the latter, even though the young creature is alive in the morning and is at once transferred to another hen, the sense of fear seems to persist, sometime for several days. In such cases even the most endearing clucks will not draw it under the mother's wings, and chilling, either by day or night, is almost certain to occur. It is thus of the first importance to ascertain that the young poults are accepted without compunction on the part of the mother hen.

If, after placing the first poult under the hen, the situation seems favorable, a second and third may be transferred from the basket. If then, after a few moments, still no remonstrance is heard, the full number may be put in place. But they should not be left until it has been learned by careful feeling about the hen and in the nest corners that they have remained beneath the feathers. Then the nest box door, or a frame of wire, should be braced against the opening and the family left while the balance of the poults are distributed among the remaining mothers in the other boxes.

BROODING.

The care and management of turkeys up to the stage of hatching and brooding the young poults presents few difficulties. But within the first six or eight weeks of the life of the young bird the real problems of turkey raising begin and the success or failure of the enterprise is determined. During this period, as will be pointed out later, methods of feeding constitute the most important single factor and this phase of the subject will be treated with the subject of brooding. But, without minimizing the importance of this factor, it is certain that methods of management at this stage are also of importance in determining the result and must be well considered if the attempt to rear even a moderate percentage of the young poults to maturity is to be successful.

Rearing the young poults may be accomplished by any one of three chief methods: (1) by artificial brooding; (2) by the employment of turkey mothers; (3) by the employment of ordinary hens as mothers. Although, for reasons that

will presently become obvious only the last of these methods will be mentioned in detail, the first two methods may be considered briefly.

Although nature's methods, involving the rigorous eliminations accompanying natural selection, are usually sufficiently well devised at least to perpetuate the species, they are very often, when held up to the standard of modern efficiency tests, sadly lacking in results. Many seeds are blown by the wind that one may gain a favorable lodgment in productive soil. Man naturally attempts to improve upon nature and one of two things usually results; either nature is completely thwarted and becomes wholly unproductive, or man, holding in check certain unfavorable conditions, but permitting the operation of others that are favorable, vastly improves the situation and with a considerable saving. Nature works for the perpetuation of the species while man works for the conservation of the individual.

These general concepts apply to the raising of turkeys as fully as to the artificial propagation of any undomesticated or partly domesticated animal species. We might in the first place be led to assume that the turkey mother is the best mother for the poults because she is the natural mother. But the natural mother is the wild mother and the wild mother is hostile and antagonistic to man's artificial methods; she becomes adapted to them with difficulty. There is no doubt that, leaving aside questions of black-head, young turkeys can be reared successfully under turkey mothers, but with the exception of raising turkeys on wide and wild ranges, the results are likely to be unsatisfactory. For this reason, this phase of turkey raising will now be passed over, but may be considered in detail in a subsequent publication.

The method employed for raising under purely artificial conditions as in brooders, yards and pens, has been alluded to in a previous bulletin and need not be repeated here. We thus come to what is in all probability the most practicable method of brooding, namely under the ordinary hen. The chief ad-

vantage of this arrangement is that the ordinary hen will not carry her brood too far afield when they are young. She is less likely to take her young into the wet grass, and more likely to remain at home with them in times of storm. She is not so easily excited as the turkey mother by many of the details of management. One always knows where to find her; and, so far as hunting for the young poults and giving them every attention in the early days of feeding is concerned, she is greatly superior to the turkey hen. Moreover she is more persistent in her broodiness; she is driven from the brood with difficulty and protects them with courage when danger threatens. In these respects the turkey hen is inferior. She is more easily brought to abandon her brood and seldom possesses the spirit of the ordinary hen in their defense. Her chief aim seems to be to carry her offspring as far as possible from the haunts of man and his artificial methods. To succeed in the use of the turkey mothers, either they or the poults must, at least during the early stages, be closely confined if the measures to be considered in the next section are to be of value.

The Usual Result.

George Edgar, game keeper for the Wyandanch Club wrote: "Please discontinue advertisement after this month since it brought all the orders I can fill, thanking you very much for advising me to advertise in The Game Breeder."

Now is the time to advertise birds for fall delivery. Those who get their advertisements in first will have the largest mail, of course, and they will get the best prices and make early deliveries.

Game breeders in the West and on the Pacific Coast will please take notice that they can get much better prices for their birds and eggs than many now are getting, if they will advertise in The Game Breeder. It only costs a few cents to prove the truth of this advice. We have large numbers of letters from advertisers thanking us for finding good customers.

The Game Breeder

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

EDITED BY DWIGHT W. HUNTINGTON

NEW YORK, JULY, 1917.

TERMS:

10 Cents a Copy—\$1.00 a year in Advance.

Postage free to all subscribers in the United States.
To All Foreign Countries and Canada, \$1.25.

THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, INC.
PUBLISHERS, 150 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK

D. W. HUNTINGTON, President,
F. R. PEIXOTTO, Treasurer,
J. C. HUNTINGTON, Secretary.

Telephone, Beekman 3685.

QUAIL BREEDING AND SHOOTING SAFE ON LONG ISLAND.

We never for a moment believed that the industry of the many quail breeders on Long Island, N. Y., would be prohibited. Under the law, the Game Conservation Commissioner has the right to proclaim a closed season in any part of the State when it appears that the game is vanishing and that such action will be beneficial.

The quail on Long Island are there and the shooting remains fairly good for the simple reason that there are many quail clubs and individuals who look after the birds properly, protect them from their natural enemies, and feed them in winter. Thousands of birds have been purchased and liberated and no greater outrage could be conceived than the putting an end to the food producing industry of the Long Island quail breeders.

Some of our readers accepted our assurance that there was no possible danger and purchased and liberated many quail this season in order to offset a partial loss due to climate last year, the weather having been unfavorable during the breeding season. The dealers reported, however, that others who intended buying stock birds did not do so, because they feared the birds would only be for foxes, cats and other vermin.

All sportsmen who enjoy shooting and eating quail will be pleased to learn that quail shooting will remain good quite

near the great city of New York. The people interested in breeding, and selling and training setters and pointers will be glad to know that quail shooting can be perpetuated, not only on Long Island, but elsewhere throughout the United States when proper methods are applied, as suggested in *The Game Breeder*.

The makers of guns and ammunition will be glad to know that the readers of *The Game Breeder*, who have adopted and put in practice the proper methods of game conservation have set an example which will be followed, no doubt, throughout the country, and that quail shooting soon will be restored in States which now prohibit it.

The Game Conservation Commissioner has done exactly right in not prohibiting sport which really is a food producing industry. Those who urged him to put an end to sport seem to be entirely unaware of the scientific reasons for the increase and decrease of any species of game.

The Long Island decision is important since it will have an excellent effect in aiding the work of the Game Conservation Society throughout the country. Many State game officers, who must be chagrined to see an end put to sport by prohibitive enactments, will be glad to see the laws amended so that the people can have quail, grouse and other game in abundance with the same freedom that pheasant and duck breeders now have these birds.

We became converted to the game farming idea after an excellent day's shooting on Long Island outside of an inexpensive club ground where quail always are plentiful. We have used Long Island repeatedly as an exhibit when urging the sportsmen in other States not to give up quail shooting, but to form numerous inexpensive quail clubs similar to those which have saved to sport our best game bird, on Long Island, N. Y.

Every game keeper in America and Canada, we believe, is a member of The Game Conservation Society and reads *The Game Breeder*.

WOODCOCK.

We have no doubt many of our readers will agree with us that the woodcock often disappear from places where their covers are drained and destroyed. They remain and breed nicely in places where it pays to preserve the covers and where they are kept quiet and safe because other game is bred in the adjacent fields. We have observed woodcock breeding quite near New York beside a pond used for wild ducks and we are told they are fairly plentiful on a number of places where they would vanish if the covers should be drained.

To prohibit woodcock shooting without excepting those who look after their woodcock would be as bad as prohibiting turkey or quail shooting without excepting those who look after their game. When we decide to consider game as a desirable food supply and keep our markets full of it, the woodcock will be saved with the other food products. The Biological Survey long has had an excellent opportunity to urge the people to preserve the game in a practical manner so that the people can have plenty to eat. We hope the present inquiry about the woodcock is not preliminary to some more fool legislation similar to that which never has produced any game for the markets and which for very good scientific reasons never can be expected to produce any game for the markets or even to preserve the species as population increases.

Woodcock have many natural enemies. These should be controlled if we wish to eat the woodcock now eaten by varmints. There is not enough for us and them. A little additional destructive shooting for example is too much after vermin has freely dined. Hence the necessity for practical protection which will not be undertaken if shooting be prohibited. Darwin was right when he intimated that shooting caused the abundance of game in England.

The Game Breeder now goes to hundreds of game shooting clubs—to all there are in America, we believe—where it is read by thousands of practical game preservers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Letter from the Dean of American Sportsmen.

Editor Game Breeder.

I have read today your Game Breeder for June. It is a fine number.

CHARLES HALLOCK,

Washington, D. C.

Good Work.

[The good work of The Game Conservation Society has been recognized in many countries outside of the United States and Canada. Advertisements in The Game Breeder have sold birds in the Sandwich Islands. Recently we have had inquiries from Cuba, South America and two from Russia. The following request is from Kharkow, Russia. We print, also, our reply which, no doubt, will interest our readers.—Editor.]

To the Secretary of The Game Conservation Society.

New York City, U. S. A.

Kharkow 211 III (31iv) 1917.

Monsieur, je vous prie beaucoup de m'envoyer des materioux concernant la protection des Animeiux, des Oiseaux en Amérique. Je vous en remerierdi, parce que cette question m'intéresse beaucoup. Mon adresse: Boris Zakharoff, 56, Rue Kontorskaia, Kharkow, Russie.

Avec consideration distinguée.

B. ZAKHAROFF.

THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY,
INCORPORATED.

The Largest Association of Game
Breeders in the World.

150 Nassau Street, New York City.

New York, le 18ieme juien 1917.

Mr. Boris Zakharoff,
56 Rue Kontorskaia,
Kharkow, Russie.

Monsieur,

La Société pour la Conservation du Gibier encourage l'élevage du gibier et des poissons aux Etats Unis de l'Amerique et de Canada. Nous nous permettons de vous envoyer notre publication: "The Game Breeder." Nous avons aussi les livres suivants, écrits par notre éditeur:

"Notre Gibier Plumeaux," "Notre Gibier Grand," "Notre Menu Gibier et Palmipède." En outre nous vandons: "La Propagation de Menu Gibier" par

Dr. Herbert Job et d'autres livres au sujet du gibier d'americaïn.

Le prix de notre publication est \$1.25 par an. Les trois premiers livres coutent \$2.00 la pièce et le livre par Dr. Job \$2.50.

Nous espérons de recevoir votre réponse et sommes, Monsieur,
Vos tout dévoués,

The Game Conservation Society, Inc.

John C. Huntington, Secretary.

=

Copy of letter to Game Conservation Commissioner George D. Pratt on the proposed law to establish a closed season on quail for five years on Long Island.

29 West 39th Street,
New York, May 5, 1917.

COMMISSIONER GEORGE D. PRATT,
Court House, Riverhead,
Long Island.

Dear Sir:

Every man has a right to his opinion; but I must confess I was astonished beyond measure at the purely theoretical and idealistic nature of the testimony given by some of those who attended your hearing on April 30th, and even by men to whom we would expect to look for authority and guidance.

I have been preserving quail in this and other countries for over twenty years, and for the last ten years I have maintained a preserve of 1,500 acres near Port Jefferson, L. I. The whole question of adequate quail increase resolves itself—where conditions permit—into a few fundamental points of practice.

1. Taking care of the birds—by feeding and shelter—in the hard winter weather. 2. Looking after them in the breeding season. 3. Sowing enough grain for them in the open. 4. Killing off the vermin—and this is especially vital—and 5. Allowing sportsmen—i. e. men who will shoot wisely and mercifully—only on the land, and keeping off the "game hogs" who would come in and leave not a single pair of birds to breed up the following season.

Do this and you will double the number of quail on any place in one year.

But to put a close season on quail on Long Island for five years would mean the end of the birds on the Island.

Look at what vermin has done on some properties in the last year, and especially at the fearful destruction of birds by the hordes of cats that have of late been multiplying so rapidly, and you will realize how soon it would take this plague, if unrestricted, to strip the Island. A learned gentleman at your April 30th hearing contended that this vermin would be effectively killed off by the State wardens. This is such absolute "piffle"—as every practi-

cal man knows—that it is unworthy of consideration.

These, too, are the days of swift motor cars, and these could carry unwatched poachers from point to point at high speed, and Tom, Dick and Harry would account for the few birds left, if any.

May I respectfully suggest for your consideration:

1. That you make an estimate—from reputable records—of the number of organizations or private individuals on Long Island, who are likely to take measures to preserve the quail, and

2. That you throw in the weight of your influence in instituting an inquiry as to how many sections of country in, say, twelve of any selected sections, which have adopted the five years' close season, have as many birds at the end of that time as they had at the beginning.

I have the utmost confidence that in reaching a decision on this question, so vital to the interests of the community, you will apportion the exact relative value of the testimony of those who have been actually trying to do something toward preserving the game, and of the theorists who are merely laying down the law.

Yours truly,

GEORGE H. GUY.

Art Advertisements.

We are planning some special illustrated breeders' cards for advertising all species of game and eggs, which we believe will prove to be attractive and effective. The illustrations will be made by a clever artist especially for these advertisements and they will be printed with a modern Gothic type. The cost of these breeders' cards will be only a little more than the cost of advertisements on our classified page and we believe the results will justify the extra cost. Samples of this new form of advertising will be found in this issue. The rate is \$2.50 for each insertion where contracts are placed for six months or a year. The sale of one bird or a dozen eggs will more than cover the cost, and we expect to have good reports from those who use this new style of advertising.

Our advice to large breeders is to use large spaces since they indicate to the big purchasers that plenty of stock can be obtained.



Which Trophy Can You Win?

A fob—a watch—cuff links—or a handsome pin? Each one of these golden beauties is a Du Pont Long Run Trophy. Which can you win? It's up to you, for if your eye is steady and your aim is true you are bound to be successful. There is only one condition: **you must**

SHOOT  POWDERS

Dupont — Ballistite — Schultze

This year the Du Pont Long Run trophies are more handsome than ever. The variety is greater. Trying to win them will improve your shooting and give you lots of fun besides.

The competition is open to every man or woman and every shooter qualifying is sure to get a prize.

Get full details immediately

Send for the official entry papers today. Get the full particulars. Quick action now will start you more quickly on the way to win.

*Address Long Run
Trophy Dept. No. 354*

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.

Wilmington

Delaware



Land for Game Preserve and Country House Near New York For Sale.

About three hundred acres on the Mianus River in Greenwich, Conn., may be purchased at present for one thousand dollars per acre. Suitable for a magnificent country house site, with surrounding forest like that of English estates. A mile of beautiful trout stream and a newly made lake of several acres on the place. Owner will not divide the tract. Its peculiar value rests in the combination of forest, cliffs and stream in a tract of this size so near to New York and to the social centers of Greenwich and Stamford.

Nothing similar can be purchased because nothing similar remains so near to the city. It will naturally continue to increase in value as a plain investment for this reason.

Deer and many other wild animals and birds now on the place

**Address Advertising Department, The Game Breeder,
150 Nassau Street, New York City.**

HOW TO REAR WILD DUCKS FOR SPORT AND FOR PROFIT

The Book, "Our Wild Fowl and Waders," is a practical, illustrated manual on the breeding and management of wild fowl. There are chapters on how to attract Woodcock and Snipe.

PRICE \$2.00

THE GAME BREEDER, 150 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK

HASLETT'S HA-FEVR-QR INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS

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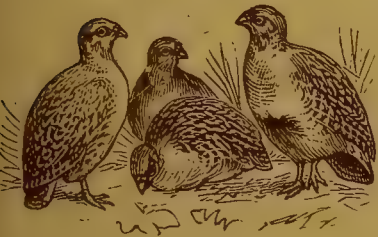
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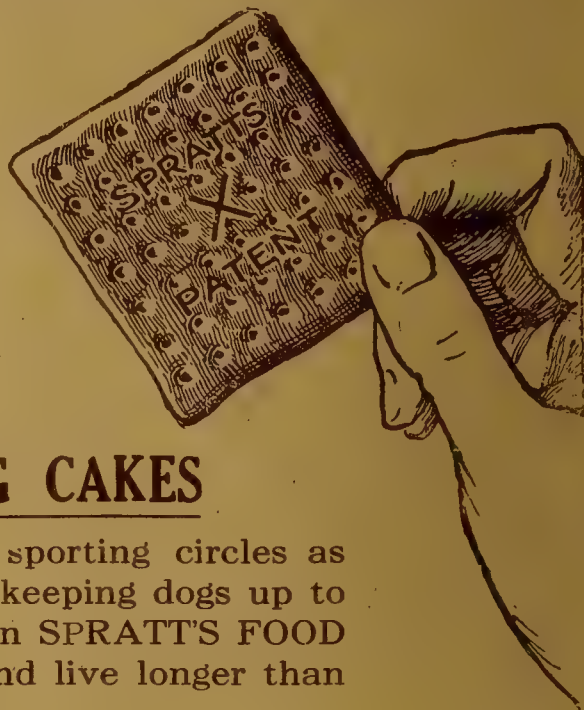
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XL

AUGUST, 1917

No. 5

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



A HALF-BREED. MASKED QUAIL—BOBWHITE

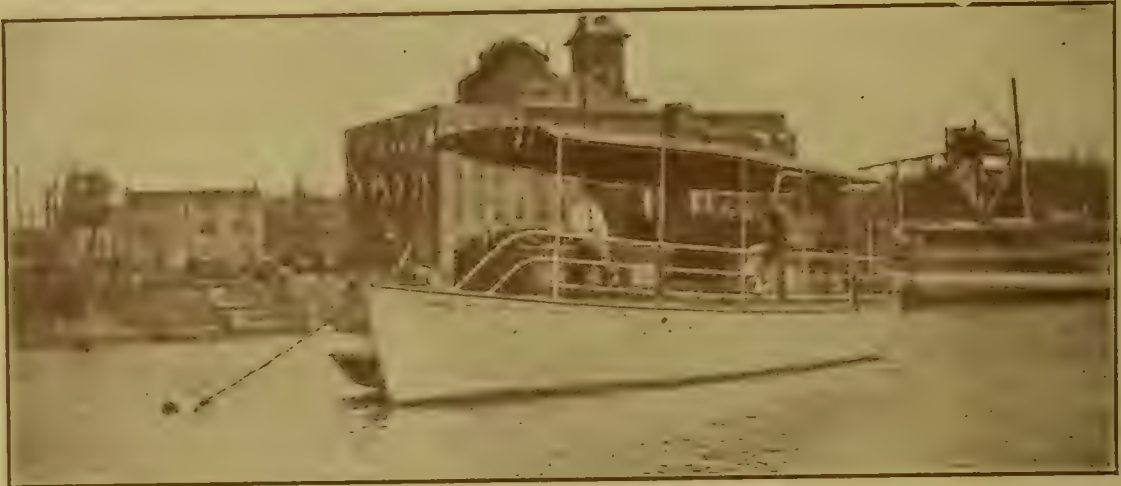
This interesting bird, evidently a hybrid or cross between the common bobwhite and the black throated or masked quail, was shot by Mr. H. Herrick, November, 1903, at the Flanders Club, Long Island, N. Y.

The feathers on the neck show the red peculiar to the masked quail and the throat is black in front. The entire white throat area of the bobwhite is replaced by black feathers in the masked quail. Some true masked quail were shot near Manor, Long Island, N. Y., but unfortunately they were not preserved.

The masked quail is a southwestern species, probably extinct in the United States. The Game Conservation Society proposes to restore it as a sporting bird.

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THE GAME CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Inc.
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C. B. Davis - 15



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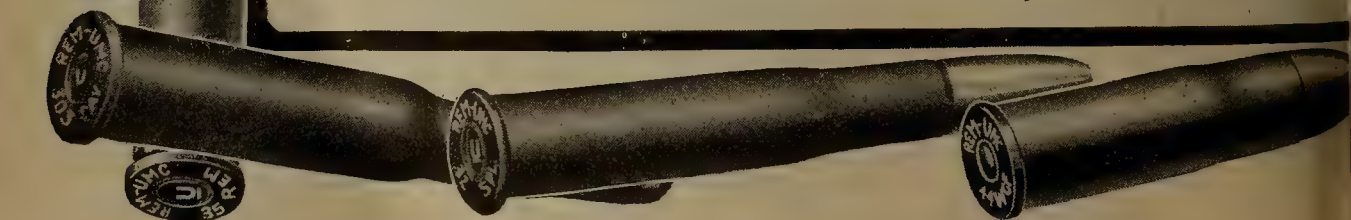
A MAN usually has to travel a long distance nowadays to get a shot at Big Game.

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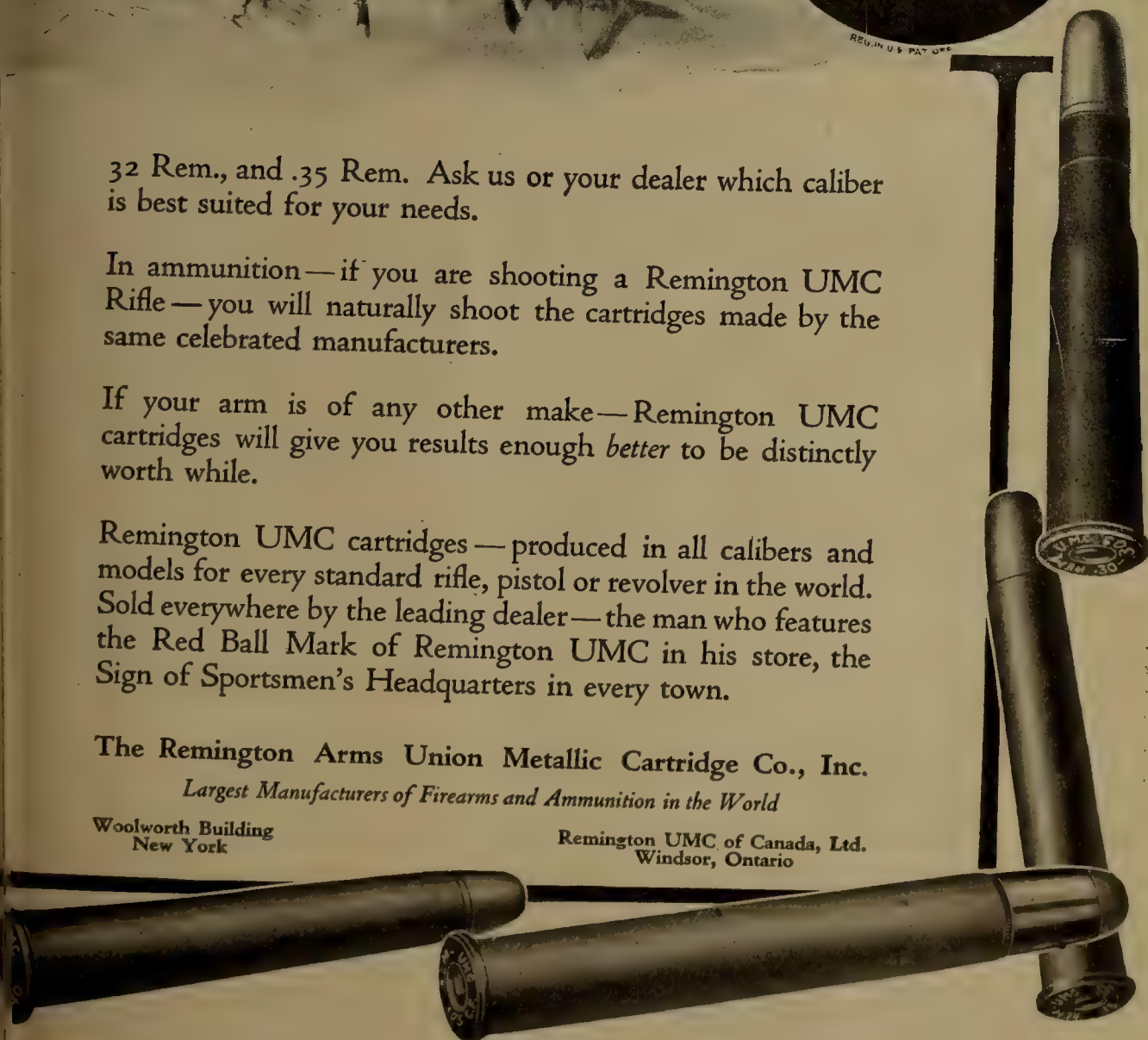
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The Game Breeder

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SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Quail in Iowa.

E. C. Hinshaw, the fish and game warden of Iowa, says, "The prospects are that a large number of quail will be raised. Quail are quite plentiful where conditions are favorable, but unless the natural cover is to be had they do not live through an ordinary winter, but where they do have the proper cover they will live through all except the extreme winters. By providing feed and shelter we have saved thousands of quail from starving and freezing. A fat quail that has good shelter seldom dies from cold. It is the quail that have not had proper feed, get poor and lose their vitality that die."

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Quail and Weed Seeds.

Mr. Hinshaw says, "After years of study and thousands upon thousands of quail have been killed for the purpose of examination, we find that they destroy eighty-five different weed seeds. Rag weed and pig weed are among those that the quail destroy in large numbers. Also large numbers of insects, all of which are true statements and are the actual findings by those who have made the examinations, but now comes the exaggeration. A ten cent piece is made to look like from \$5 to \$25, according to some of the learned experts, and right here is where some of our progressive farmers and thinking men do some figuring of their own. They take the number of pig weed seed, for instance, that a quail destroys; they divide the number of seeds that one plant will produce and they find that a single pig weed plant will furnish feed for a quail several

days, then they take the number of quail that it would take to make a noticeable difference in weeds on their farm and find that it would require an unthinkable number to do the same amount of weed destruction that a dollar's worth of cultivation would do."

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Insect Reasoning.

"Then the insect question comes in for some reasoning. There are those who remember the early days when the birds had not been destroyed by any unnatural cause, and the early settlers were driven out by the grasshoppers, the locust, etc. Then as the country finally settled up the birds commenced to disappear and also the grasshoppers and other insects. Then what does it all mean? It simply means this, that the birds do destroy, but in such small numbers in proportion to the number of insects in existence that the decrease in birds has no noticeable effect on insect life, and there are other reasons, many of which we cannot explain here for want of space. A few will suffice.

"The world was created on the plan of the survival of the fittest, which is practically true of all living things. Bug and insect life prey upon the smaller and weaker. What has this to do with quail? It has this, the bugs and beetles found in the quail's crop would have destroyed thousands of small insects had the quail not destroyed them."

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The Quail a Food Bird.

The Iowa warden well says, "No, the quail should not be taken from the game

bird class. The law now provides that the land owner can protect them if he so desires."

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The Quail and the Farmer.

Iowa now has a good game breeders' law permitting the profitable breeding of quail and other game. It is an easy matter for those who wish to do so to have an abundance of quail for sport or for profit. The quail under this law add materially to the value of any farm when they are properly looked after. The farmer who will breed quail in protected fields will find the birds not only useful but valuable. There are a number of shooting clubs in Iowa which have quail. To prohibit quail shooting and quail breeding for profit will decrease the value of the farms since a farm where a valuable food crop cannot be produced is not worth as much as one where it is legal to have the birds to eat, to shoot and to sell. It is pure mischief making to enact laws making it not worth while to look after such valuable food birds. They require some attention, but a very little care and feeding, if proper covers are planted, will keep the birds plentiful although thousands be shot and eaten every season. The farmers of Iowa should insist upon their right to produce quail. Those who do so will have a valuable food for themselves and for others. The shooting clubs which have quail should insist on their right to produce and shoot the most desirable food bird.

Sport has nothing to gain by laws prohibiting quail shooting and the farmers in many states now derive a good income from quail and should not be prevented from so doing. Recently the quail clubs on Long Island put an end to the nonsense of those who do not seem to know that game easily is made plentiful when it pays to do so and that laws preventing a food producing industry are worse than nonsensical.

The Game Conservation Society gives prizes of live quail to those who write the best stories about game breeding. One of these prizes went to Iowa last year. Should the owner of the birds who

will breed them for profit be arrested and fined for such industry? Nonsense! Nonsense! Nonsense!

Hundreds of thousands of dollars were sent abroad every year (until the war ended the industry), to foreign game farmers. About \$100,000 worth of quail were imported from Mexico by members of the Game Conservation Society last year. They would prefer to send the money to American farmers.

The Society will send no quail as prizes to states where it is a crime to produce the desirable food profitably.

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Something for Sentimentalists and Fanatics.

The Iowa warden says, "There are a few who still advocate the indefinite protection of the quail. This agitation does not come so much from people who have personally investigated the question as it does from those who are still willing to quote some sentimentalists or fanatics who have allowed their prejudice to carry their statements so far beyond reasonable facts that no person who would give the subject serious thought would care to be quoted as upholding such unreasonable statements."

You are quite right, Warden. No one but a D—— fool would prevent the production of quail.

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Our Feathered Game in Idaho.

A writer of Twin Falls, Idaho, in Forest and Stream gives the following account of upland shooting in Southern Idaho:

"Hunting in Southern Idaho is confined mostly to feathered game. There are usually plenty of sage hens in the vast sage brush lands. The hard winter has greatly lessened their numbers, however, and unless something happens contrary to expectations now, sage hens will not be overly plentiful. THERE IS NO OPEN SEASON.

"Pheasants are here in great numbers but NO SHOOTING IS ALLOWED now in Twin Falls County. There is NO OPEN SEASON FOR quail in Idaho this year. These are the main birds here in Twin Falls County."

The writer of the foregoing, rosy account of the upland shooting possibilities in Idaho simply seems to report the

facts as a matter of course, and Forest and Stream publishes the report without comment. Who can expect to sell guns, ammunition or bird dogs in Idaho? We hardly realized that the effect of protection had proceeded so far to the westward.

Idaho needs some first-class game ranches where game is kept plentiful for sport and for profit. It needs some noisy refuges where a few thousand game birds are shot every season to prevent an over abundance. We have just discovered that The Game Breeder only has a very few readers in Idaho. We will soon look after this benighted region.

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A Message to the Hercules Powder Co.

Please send a lot of your booklets on Game Farming to Idaho and convert the natives, as you have in some other states. No one possibly can be damaged by game farming, game abundance and lively shooting in a land where "there is no open season for grouse;" "no shooting is allowed" at pheasants; "there is no open season for quail" and where these are the "main birds." Very good birds they are, to be sure, both for sport and for food. Why is such quiet necessary?

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Wake Up, Idaho! Wake Up!

Listen to the pleasing noise in the states where game breeding is permitted and where the shooting is becoming lively.

We suggest that you send committees of the House and Senate to visit The Game Breeder. We will plan some excursions to nearby places where they can see thousands of birds shot safely every season. Many are marketed as food. If they can spare the time we can let them see a thousand quail safely shot in a week.

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Game Ranching in New Mexico.

Ranches for the profitable breeding of all species of game soon will be very numerous in New Mexico, no doubt. The state has a most capable game warden, who says, "This department is now en-

couraging in every manner possible the propagation of game by such ranches or game preserves, by issuing upon the payment of a nominal sum, a permit for a number of years."

One of the game ranches now has a large herd of antelope probably the largest herd of these animals, within a fence, in the United States. Another has about 300 antelope and there are smaller preserves having from 25 to 75 antelope. A number of game farms have an abundance of small game.

Legal to Breed and Sell Big Game.

The laws of this state (Wyoming), permit the breeding of game, including elk, deer, antelope and mountain sheep, by compliance with the following: A resident of this state can secure a permit from State Game Warden for the capture of the above animals, the capture of these animals to be done under the supervision of a game warden, the permit holder being required to pay such warden the sum of \$3.00 per day for actual time employed. Game animals so captured can not be sold or shipped out of this state, or killed, for a period of five years from date of capture; however, the permit holder is entitled to the natural increase therein. After the expiration of five years, the animals captured under the permit become the property of the permit holder and he is authorized to dispose of same as he or she sees fit.

With reference to fish culture, fish may be raised in this state and sold or disposed of for food purposes, no license being required. However, such business must be carried on in private waters.

I remain,

NATE P. WILSON,
State Game Warden.

An Inquiry About Woodcock.

Sir:—

The Bureau of Biological Survey has received many conflicting statements concerning the present status of woodcock, some claiming that the bird has increased, others that it has decreased.

As the woodcock is a migratory bird the Bureau of Biological Survey desires to secure as definite information as possible concerning its numbers with a view properly to protect it under any regulations that may appear to be necessary. With this purpose in view I shall be pleased to have your reply to the following queries:

1. Has there been an increase or decrease of woodcock in your vicinity during the past several years?

2. Does the woodcock breed in your vicinity?

3. What is your estimate of the number of woodcock killed in your vicinity during the past year? Please state the area covered by this estimate.

4. Do you believe the species is threatened with extinction?

5. Do you advise protection of woodcock by a close season for a term of years?

Any other suggestions you may wish to make regarding woodcock will be appreciated.

Thanking you for any information you may be able to furnish in this matter and with full appreciation of your co-operation, I am,

Very truly yours,

E. W. NELSON,

Chief, Biological Survey.

Jack Rabbits and Others.

'Field and Stream concludes the advertisement of Chiles & Co., Mt. Sterling, Ky., thus: "Jack rabbits and other varieties of ducks." This is almost as funny as the recent error in The Game Breeder when a reader was made to say shooting "our" decoys instead of shooting over decoys. As Josh Billings wisely remarked, "It is human to error."

Game Farming in the West.

It is most fortunate that the people of some of the western states where game is still fairly plentiful, are awake and that capable game officers see that the extinction of game, especially the grouse of the open country and quail, is sure to occur

if these birds are not properly looked after on many game farms. There is very good reason for not enacting laws prohibiting grouse and quail shooting since laws surely will prevent quail and grouse production. No one can be expected to look after the game if all incentives to do so be removed. Quail and grouse are highly desirable foods. There is no possible reason why the people should not have grouse ranches and quail ranches just as they now have wild duck and pheasant ranches and game breeding associations where the desirable food is produced abundantly. The Game Breeder takes a great interest in the new places. From 25 to 50 are started each month.

This estimate is based on the number of new members of the Game Conservation Society, who are active or who are surely starting.

A Trapshooting Club Handbook.

The Du Pont Powder Company, Wilmington, Delaware, has issued a most interesting and instructive book with the above title, which describes fully the organization, equipment and management of trap-shooting clubs. The book is illustrated with photographs of trap-shooting grounds, appliances, score books, squad sheets, cashier and bulletin sheets, etc. There is an immense amount of useful information about the various kinds of clubs and the shoots including the Grand American Handicap. Since many of the game shooting clubs and most of the individual game preserves in the United States and Canada have traps and trap shooting our readers will be interested in knowing all about "The Sport Alluring."

A resolution has been offered and is pending in the Game Guild Committee which will require advertisers to make good in every case where eggs turn out badly provided it appears that the eggs shipped were not laid on the place advertised.

Now is the time to advertise game birds for fall delivery.

QUAIL AND PARTRIDGE BREEDING FOR SPORT AND FOR PROFIT.

BY D. W. HUNTINGTON.

PART III.

Quail Foods.

The quail preserver should know much about the natural foods for quail, both those which should not be destroyed and those which can be planted to advantage. Quail eat a great variety of food and are said to be one of our most nearly omnivorous species. The greater the variety and abundance of the foods the easier it will be to make the birds plentiful and to hold them on the preserved area. Since they eat different foods at different seasons of the year, it is desirable to have, at least, some of the many foods suitable for each season. In winter, for example, it is important, in the northern states, to have foods which can be taken above the snow. Quail thrive on the hips of wild roses; the berries of the dwarf and the stag-horn sumac; the rag weeds and many other weeds which present food above the snow. Sun-flowers and the tall black berries will furnish food late in the season and these foods should be preserved where they occur or be introduced where they have been extirpated. Quail eat all kinds of grain; wheat, buckwheat, corn, rye and millet are probably the most desirable, and small areas planted with these grains, which should be left standing, will hold the birds in safe places where it is desirable to have them.

Weed seeds, like insects, often are over-abundant on the farms, but, as I have said, often they are plowed under on vast areas at times when the quail need them most. Many weeds should be permitted to grow on areas set aside for the quail and at the sides of the ditches and fences at least. The quail is pre-eminently a seed eater and 52.83 per cent. of its annual food is the seeds of plants belonging to the general category of weeds.* Over sixty species are

known to be eaten. Among the favorite seeds listed are rag weed, button weed, sunflower, bastard pen royal, witch grass, partridge pea, fox tail grass, smart weed and morning glory. The small seeds, especially those of leguminous plants seem to be especially attractive and it is, of course, an easy matter to preserve some of them in places where it is deemed worth while to have quail.

Insects are so plentiful on many farms that it would hardly seem to be necessary to mention this important part of the quail's bill of fare. There are places in the mountains, however, and elsewhere in dry seasons, where insects are scarce, at times, and insects seem to be necessary to the birds' existence. A study of the insect food of bobwhite indicates that over one hundred insects are eaten. Dr. Judd says that insects appeared from his investigations to form 15.05 per cent. of the entire food for the year.* The more important insects eaten are numerous species of beetles, including the potato beetle, cucumber beetle, squash lady bug and others found in the gardens, and many found in grain and grass fields; other insects are grasshoppers, bugs, caterpillars and spiders. Different plants have different insects and a variety of planting will, of course, produce a variety of insects. The food of young quails consists largely of insects and this part of the bill of fare is especially important on this account. Green foods, lettuce, clovers, grass, etc.,

*S. I. Judd, Bulletin on Bobwhite and other Quails of the United States.

*Millet undoubtedly is eaten but for some reason I have seldom found quail in millet fields. Wheat and buckwheat stubbles, full of rag weeds, seem to be the most attractive fall feeding grounds.

are largely eaten and it is desirable to see that these foods are evenly distributed. A few clover seeds, lettuce seeds and others easily can be planted near the covers reserved for the birds.

In the Southern states cow peas, which often are planted especially for the quail, and the seeds of the long leaf pine constitute a good part of the food. Acorns, beech nuts and other mast are eaten and one of my correspondents says he once found the quail living almost exclusively on small acorns during the shooting season in North Carolina.*

Many fruits, probably all, are eaten by quail. The blackberries and wild raspberries are among the most important since they afford safe covers as well as foods, but wild strawberries, winter-green, wild cherries, apples and all other fruits may well be preserved where they occur, and strawberries, huckleberries and many other wild berries easily can be introduced and permitted to grow near the covers provided for the game.

It is by no means necessary to have all or nearly all of the foods referred to on a preserve, but some, at least, of the various grains, weeds and fruits should be preserved or introduced at intervals since it is highly desirable to have the game evenly distributed and the shooting good in every field.

In Hungary vast areas are planted with alternating strips of corn and wheat or other small grain and the partridges, being protected from vermin, literally swarm on such areas. The numbers shot, and trapped and sold alive seem almost incredible. Captain C. E. Radcliffe, describing an Hungarian estate where the owner takes an interest in preserving partridges, says: "The average head of game per acre is positively bewildering: A thing which strikes the English eye is the absence of any hedges or suitable places for the birds to nest in, but this does not appear to affect the birds much if one may judge by the number on the ground, and it considerable assists the keepers in killing off the vermin, in which respect, also, Hungary

is plentifully supplied. As a general rule, crops of corn are sown in long strips, with spaces between each where small grain of various kinds is also sown.

The strips of each are about 50 to 150 yards wide and as soon as the small grain has been harvested the birds take refuge in the corn during the heat of the day.*

Describing the shooting, which consists in walking up the birds without the aid of dogs, he says, "The clouds of partridges which come out of each strip of corn are absolutely bewildering. At first, before any birds have been scattered, coveys come out four and five at a time and get packed like grouse. He assisted two other guns in shooting 454 partridges in less than five hours shooting, the bag being made in a field of less than 300 acres. He says, over 10,000 birds were shot in ten days' shooting and that the bag easily could have been doubled by a few days more shooting. The birds are plentiful because their enemies are controlled and because they are fed and properly looked after in the winter season.

Our quail and prairie grouse shooting easily can be made fully as good by a proper handling of the birds on places where the owner or shooting tenant, "takes an interest in preserving game."

The food habits of the California valley quail and the other western species are somewhat similar to that of bob-white and the methods of preserving which I have outlined may be applied to all of them. Protect the birds from their natural enemies, see that foods and covers are abundant and evenly distributed and the birds quickly will become plentiful on the protected areas and remain so although thousands be shot every season.

The masked bob-white, before it became extinct in Arizona, was observed feeding in wheat and barley fields. The

*J. B. Foote, in *The Game Breeder*.

*The owners of prairie farms in the West will find it easy to have an abundance of quail and grouse by proper planting and protection and the birds will be worth as much as the grain.

general habits of the birds, Dr. Judd says, may be assumed safely to be similar to those of its relative bob-white. The birds still occur in Mexico and they should be imported on the most liberal terms and made plentiful in many places in the United States. It is a great pity that "restrictions" have made it almost impossible to re-introduce this interesting game bird.

The California quail eats much wheat and barley and W. T. Craig reported to the United States Department of Agriculture that he had observed the quail "enter a field of wheat to the number of thousands, and had they not been driven away they would have destroyed the whole crop." This suggests that scare boys easily can be employed to keep the game out of the fields, as boys are employed in England to keep pheasants and other birds from doing any damage. We should remember that at present the quail are worth more than the wheat and that by proper management the land owner, and shooting tenant may have both.

The food habits of the mountain quail do not differ as much as we might expect from the other species. They eat grasshoppers and insects; weed seeds,

which constitute 46.61 per cent of the food; fruit, grain, flowers and leaves. This bird is said to be especially fond of the leaves of clover and other leguminous plants. Since the bird is evidently fond of grain and alfalfa it should be an easy matter to plant some clearings in its woodland haunts which would soon make the birds plentiful, provided their natural enemies be persistently destroyed.

The scaled quail lives for the most part in comparatively desert regions in the Southwest, the valley of the Rio Grande representing its center of abundance. It finds an abundance of food and the many thorns, including cactus, afford much protection from its enemies. Easily this bird can be kept plentiful and profitable simply by destroying the snakes, hawks, crows and other ground and winged enemies which prey upon it.

The Gambel's quail, like the other quails, thrives on insects, seeds, grains and berries. It has been reported destructive to beans and since beans are easily planted and grown the game preserver may find here a useful hint for holding a lot of birds on a selected area. The quail crop can be made far more valuable than beans.

BREEDING AMHERSTS, GOLDEN AND RINGNECKS.

WILLIAM SNYDER.

I am giving you my experience in pheasant breeding. I admire those beautiful birds very much, but have not the time nor space to breed to any extent. I am only a back-lotter, so keep them only for pleasure.

I have worked out a system of management that gives me a small profit besides. I am breeding Amherst, Golden and Ringnecks. My breeding pens are 5 by 18 feet, including a shed for shelter and dusting. The pens are stationary but kept very clean; fresh sand and fine coal ashes are put in every year.

I feed Spratt's pheasant meal and Crissel in the morning, greens at noon, and wheat, barley, buckwheat, oats and a little cracked corn at night. My Ringnecks laid an average of 50 eggs this year; they averaged about 90 per cent. fertile. For hatching I use common hens, free from lice, of quiet disposition, and give 18 eggs to each hen. My brooding coops are 2 feet square for the hen, with a run attached 2 x 4 feet for the chicks, enclosed with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh wire netting, both coop and run have a board bottom, as I believe this pre-

vents Gapes. I also use these coops for chickens and I never had Gapes in my flocks since I have used them.

I feed the pheasant chicks on custard for the first two days; this is made by beating eggs and milk together, a tablespoon full of milk to each egg and then cooked dry; after the second day I mix Spratt's pheasant meal with it, gradually increasing the quantity as they grow older. I also feed Spratt's chickgrain. I feed 5 meals per day. The first feed is custard and meal, the next chickgrain and so on throughout the day. For greens I feed lettuce only and from the first day on and all they will eat.

When chicks are two weeks old they

are so far advanced that there is little danger of Gapes, they are then allowed a grass run, 5 by 10 feet; here they remain until some time in October when they are placed in the winter quarters.

My eggs hatched very good this spring. All chicks were strong and healthy; they are now half grown and I still have all of them. Intensive breeding must be watched very closely, it only takes a few minutes to look after a pen of birds, but thoroughness is required. I do not leave any feed lying around to get sour where the chicks can get it. Lice I keep down as much as possible. Freedom from lice, cleanliness and good wholesome food account for my success this spring is my belief.

THE BLACK HEAD DISEASE.

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION — RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE.

BROODING WITH HENS.

At the end of the section on incubation we left the young poults for their first night out of the incubator under their foster mothers, occupying the brooder coops located on the range where the young birds are to be reared. Let us imagine that we have before us a field of five or six acres. It is not far from the homestead for it can easily be seen from the upper windows of the house and walking over to the lot once at morning, noon and night is no hardship; it can be reached quickly in case of sudden showers. On one side of the field is a travelled road. Along this runs a fence with poultry netting extending up to a height of four feet; at the base is a twelve-inch strip of one-inch mesh securely stubbed. On two sides of the field are low stone walls along the top of which, but with the free lower margin outside the wall, runs a three-foot strip of poultry netting attached to stakes driven at an angle; this is to keep out the dogs. At the end opposite the road is a patch of woods with a wall between it and the field. One side of the field is in brush. The land is too stony for

cutting hay. Across one corner runs a small brook. On one side of the field near the road is a small six by eight portable house, formerly an old hen house, in which feed and feeding dishes, grit and a few tools are kept. Spaced with some regularity about the field are about twelve to fifteen brooder coops each of which at present houses an ordinary hen and from twelve to fourteen poults recently taken from the incubator. The wire frames are in place before the doors, and the occupants are still within. The coops themselves, which are without floors, measure about two feet square, and have a simple shed roof covered with roofing paper. They open to the south. Attached in front of each coop is a small yard made of wire frames one foot high, put together in the form of an oblong. Several satisfactory coops and runs of this sort are on the market. At the end of the run, which is covered with poultry wire, is a door opening to the range.

The morning passes and nothing is disturbed. About noon when the poults are about thirty to thirty-six hours old, the poultryman may be observed inspecting

the coops, throwing inside of each a handful of whole corn and placing within reach of the opening in the coop door a shallow dish of water. About sundown he returns and inspects the coops to see that all is well.

The next morning about eight he comes again, and issuing from the feed house is seen to be carrying a stack of board trays, one for each coop. Each contains about two teaspoonfuls of finely chopped boiled egg and dandelion or lettuce in about equal amount. He places one inside of each coop, but no sooner has he put in the last than he returns and collects them all in the order of presentation. They have been before the poults perhaps five to seven minutes. At the same time, if the day is sunny, he draws away the frame a few inches, or opens the door slightly, so that the young poults can enter the run but while the mother hen is still confined. About eleven o'clock the same feeding is repeated, and after it a handful of whole corn is thrown into each coop for the mothers. At two he comes again and this time the trays contain stale bread thoroughly soaked up in sweet milk. Within from five to seven minutes the trays are again removed. At five o'clock the trays each carry about two teaspoonfuls of egg and onion top or lettuce chopped finely together. After they are collected the frames are pushed in place or the doors are shut and the flocks are left for the night.

The next morning when the poultryman comes, he first opens the coop door and places in the runs the trays with about two teaspoonfuls of hard boiled egg freshly chopped with rolled oats and lettuce or dandelion. The old hen eats some of it, but the poults get as much as is good for them and later the mother has her whole corn. At eleven o'clock they are fed with about two teaspoonfuls of chick grain, at two with bread and milk and at five with egg mixture. The young poults imitating the hen now peck actively at the board tray and now and then pick a mouthful from the beak of the mother hen. Not much is left when the trays are collected. The third day of feeding passes much like the

second; the poults now run about their enclosure and begin to scratch in the grass and gravel.

On the fourth day of feeding the caretaker comes in the morning as usual, but does not come at eleven. He is there at noon, however, and again at about four-thirty in the afternoon when more bread and milk is given and all the poults put into the coop for the night.

Apparently on this day the young birds have had only three feedings, one of chopped egg and greens, one of chick grain and one of bread and milk. After this the poultryman never comes more than three times a day to feed the poults. Sometimes he feeds them bread and milk, sometimes egg, oats and green food finely chopped, sometimes grain and sometimes nothing but a handful of rolled oats. But at about the end of the first week, he may frequently be seen to stand, watch in hand, while the young birds eat; and the wooden trays are seldom before them for more than three minutes at each feeding. Now and then he throws into the tray with the grain, or into the grass, a small amount of fine grit. Fresh water in shallow dishes is always before them.

When the birds are about seven or eight days old, if the day is pleasant the door of the brooder run is opened and with the old hen, they are given their liberty. They do not wander far, and return to their supper tray in the late afternoon. They are then shut up for the night. After this, on each pleasant day, when the dew is off the grass, they are allowed to run and the hen gradually takes them further and further afield, but always comes back to the same coop at evening. The young ones, however, sometimes lose their mother, or suddenly find themselves in the midst of another family. Sometimes these changes are accepted philosophically by the poults, but at other times a lost poult will peep vociferously until his proper mother is found or until he is taken to his own house.

After the first ten or twelve days of feeding, the chopped egg may be left out of their diet which is now limited to chick grain, rolled oats, green food and

bread and milk. But in all the meals, there is a time-limit for eating and what remains unconsumed at the end of three minutes is lost for that meal at least.

By the end of the second week the young poults are ranging still more widely and with the help of the mother hen are each day obtaining insect food such as small crickets and bugs in increasing amounts. The poultryman may now be observed gradually to reduce the time limit of each of the three feedings from three to about two and a half minutes. By the end of the third week their midday meal has been dropped, and after they have reached the age of one month the poults are no longer shut up at night unless the weather is stormy. On such days they are confined to the coop and adjoining run, are fed lightly three or four times and with a slightly greater time allowed at each meal to make up for the loss of their natural supply of insect food.

About this time, or sometimes earlier, a new but very important food is introduced to them. In the shady side of the feed house one may observe half a dozen large milk cans, which are from time to time filled with skimmed milk. If souring takes place properly, such milk will keep for months. Pasteurized milk should not be employed. Each morning the poultryman may be seen after actively stirring the can with a paddle, to dip out of one of these cans a quantity of well clabbered milk, which is distributed among shallow dishes or long wooden troughs scattered over the range. At first he allows about one quart for every thirty-five to forty poults (including the mother hens) each morning and each night. This amount should gradually be increased. The poults soon come to like it and drink the dish clean, both curd and whey. The addition of the milk ration makes up to a considerable extent for the midday meal which has already been dropped out.

The food of the young poults for the second month is not materially different from what is was during the latter part of the first month. Rolled oats may be continued to advantage, profitably fed

with a large amount (at least one-half by volume) of chopped green food such as onion tops, carrot tops, dandelion, lettuce, etc. Green food must always be given liberally. Chick grain of any of the standard commercial mixtures is continued and bread and milk (sour or sweet) complete the ration.

It is during the second month that blackhead begins to be most troublesome and from this time on it is necessary to feed even more carefully than during the first few weeks; and "carefully" in this case refers more to the amounts of food given than to the kinds of food. Young poults can probably be raised successfully on many different rations taken in addition to their normal insect diet. They may do well on corn meal alone; they may thrive on no other additional food than bread and milk until they are three to four months old. The main idea is to prevent overeating of whatever they do have, and during this period of their lives "feeding by time" has its greatest value. To allow the poults to come in contact with the wooden tray, bearing whatever it may, for two to three minutes twice each day, is ordinarily ample for all their actual requirements. The balance of their food must be picked up in the field. Sometimes this insect food is more plentiful than at others, and the poultryman must always bear in mind that the feeding which he gives is only supplementary, and must gauge the amount accordingly,—just as he does on rainy days when insect food is practically denied. He must expect to find the young poults clamoring for their wooden tray at every meal. He must expect to see them take wing and fly to him from the far corners of the field as soon as he appears to give breakfast or supper. If this is not the case; if the poults do not seem to be on the watch for him and what he brings and devour it ravenously; if they walk unconcernedly about the dish or tray, eating little, something is wrong with the feeding method, and the best thing to do is to stop feeding altogether until he finds out what error has been made. In the majority of cases it will have been overfeeding.

(To be continued.)

GAME BREEDING IN PENNSYLVANIA.

BY THE EDITOR.

The new game breeders' law for Pennsylvania contains two highly meritorious provisions: (1) It is now legal to breed all species of game; (2) Permits can be obtained to trap breeding stock.

Often we have pointed out the absurdity, which originated in the New York statute, of only permitting breeders to profitably breed imported pheasants and two common species of ducks which least need the game breeders' attention on account of their abundance. The wood-duck and other rare and vanishing birds should be carefully looked after and made plentiful. They are more profitable than the common mallard.

Often we have pointed out the necessity for obtaining stock birds for propagation. In the July issue of *The Game Breeder* Mr. Dusette told us that from a few trapped ducks, taken under a permit issued by his state, he soon had several thousand ducks. Although he sells thousands of birds, alive for breeding purposes and in the market as food, there never is any danger of extinction, but, on the other hand, he can increase his output any season and can keep up a high standard of excellence by trapping a few new stock birds each year and adding them to his breeding flocks.

As is usual in new game breeders' enactments there are some provisions in the Pennsylvania law which should not be there. The deer breeder is required to have an eight foot fence to prevent any wild game getting into the inclosure. Since it is evident that the deer will be far more abundant in places where they are properly looked after than they are outside of such preserves it would seem that the public would be better off if some game be permitted to escape especially from deer parks where deer are shot. The commercial deer breeders, however, for the most part, prefer not to have their deer escape, so that the re-

quirement is not onerous to deer breeders.

The regulations for bird breeding are far more objectionable. In places where game is bred for sport it is evident more birds will be taken by the public if the game be permitted to escape than if it be roofed over. To say nothing about the cost of the roofing, the law provides:

"Sec. 7. A certificate, to be known as a propagating certificate, may be issued by the Board of Game Commissioners to any accredited person residing within this commonwealth of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, permitting the holder thereof and his assistants to breed or raise game quadrupeds or game birds of any kind, both or either, and to sell the same, dead or alive, at any time within the commonwealth, under the following restrictions."

Briefly the important restrictions are that a petition be filed describing the premises and asking for the permit or certificate, "which said premises, in the matter of the raising of small game, may be in such form as to the operator thereof seems best suited to his purposes, so long as wild game is prevented from coming on the said property." The fee is \$1.00 and a bond of \$500 is required from the applicant.

Numerous records are required to be kept and the bird cages are subject to inspection by the state.

Shipping packages must have a card or marker attached to be supplied at cost in duplicate and upon which shall appear the name and address of the purchaser with the contents of the package. One card shall be sent to the Game Commissioners.

The law indirectly is intended to carry out the "otherwise than by shooting" nonsense which has occurred in some statutes, since no one would desire to shoot birds in a cage, into which "wild birds cannot enter."

We have heard recently of the death of every bird on several places where attempts were made to rear quail in confinement. We have heard of the survival of similar birds and their tremendous multiplication in a single season where the birds were properly looked after, breeding in a wild or semi-wild state, in fields made safe and attractive. The most successful and experienced breeders are aware that quail and grouse should not be bred in cages where there are fields which can be made safe and attractive, and the same is true of wild ducks. Many birds will go out from such fields, as they do on Long Island, N. Y., when the shooting is lively, and these are a free gift to the public.

The great incentive to breed game properly is the excellent shooting which is sure to occur. Since more game birds will go out of preserves which are not roofed over, when the shooting is lively, than will enter, the state would seem to lose and not to gain by requiring game shoots to have a roof. The incentive to produce the food abundantly, of course, is destroyed since no sportsmen will care to shoot quail in wire enclosures roofed over.

It seems a peculiar hardship to require food producers to give a bond of \$500. Evil minded persons seem always to proceed on the theory that practically all sportsmen are dishonest, where as a matter of fact the honesty and fairness of producing sportsmen is proverbial. They stand ready at all times to help put any crook out of business who may endeavor to sell the rare wild game said to be owned by the people in common but especially reserved for the sportsmen who do nothing to keep up the supply.

Let the law provide that the game farmers may shoot all the game they may consider proper within the limits of their farm and they will keep up a famous supply which will restock the neighborhood.

Few people will care to invest in farms in Pennsylvania under the new law since there are many states where the rural resident will find more freedom

and where he will not be presumed to be a crook and required to give a bond in order to produce food.

We once reared 2,500 wild ducks about a small artificial pond. During the shooting season we shot about 1,600 ducks and many people in the surrounding country shot mallards and some thanked us for providing the free food. There were more mallards shot in that neighborhood during the year we made the experiment than were shot in the preceding ten years on the same area. As an offset to our losses we shot about 300 wild visitors but this was no more than the law allowed a similar number of people to take on public lands or waters. We had over one hundred guns in the producing syndicate and each, at that time, was permitted to take 25 state or public ducks per diem. All the birds reared and all the wild birds shot were, of course, used as food and there now are dozens of similar food producing plants which are due to the experiment referred to. These places produce many tons of food in a year.

We invite the attention of the Pennsylvania Commissioners to the fact that every one of these food producing plants would be closed could the new Pennsylvania law be applied to them. It is most fortunate that it cannot apply since it would destroy not only the food production and the sport, but also the value of the ponds and swamps used for duck breeding. It would exterminate the ducks on the ponds referred to.

We can see no possible benefit for any one in the Pennsylvania restrictions which absolutely destroy the main incentive to the production of highly desirable foods and which undoubtedly hamper sport, destroy land values and undoubtedly will tend to send citizens to seek a residence in states which have far more freedom.

There are many good duck shoots on Long Island, N. Y. We have seen land used for these places show big increases in value. The public shooting has been greatly benefited and no good reason can be assigned why Pennsylvania should not profit by the example of the Long

Island wild duck breeders and the Long Island quail breeders who shoot their quail abundantly, but not in cages into which no wild game can enter.

At a recent hearing before the New York Commissioner cumulative evidence was offered to show that the quail breeders not only introduced and restored the quail on the farms used for breeding but also that they protected the game from its natural enemies and kept it so plentiful that it resulted in good shooting for all comers in places where there would be no quail provided the

game farms be closed as they surely would be should the law require their owners to roof them over.

It is not unusual that a little nonsense has been incorporated into the new Pennsylvania statute. It is the counterpart of the nonsense which appeared the first year in the New York statute which required producing sportsmen to take their game, "otherwise than by shooting." The nonsense vanished quickly after a cartoon appeared in *The Game Breeder* showing a sportsman taking his wild duck with a hatchet.

NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

BY OUR READERS.

Game Breeding Experiments.

The Game Conservation Society is continually making experiments with live game. Recently 20 one-day-old pheasants were shipped from the Lavanna Game Farm in New Jersey to Riverhead, Long Island, N. Y. The birds were shipped on Monday at 8 a. m. They reached Riverhead (our report says), Thursday at noon. This seems to be an unreasonable delay on the part of somebody. Two of the chicks were dead and two have died since. The rest were pretty weak, but are looking better.

The express company clearly is liable for the chicks lost in transit, but the matter is too small to make the collection of damages worth while. The package was marked: "Live pheasant chicks" and it should have traveled faster.

Brook Trout for Japan.

Of the shipment of 100,000 brook trout eggs sent to the Japanese Government for the lakes and rivers of Chosen, 608 eggs died in transit; the remainder began to hatch two or three days after their receipt, and the young fish are doing well.—*Sportsmen's Review*.

More Owls in British Columbia.

Mr. J. H. McIlfree of Victoria, B. C., in an entertaining letter to the *Dean*

Charles Hallock, says: "Our game birds suffered badly last winter; we had a large influx of great horned owls with quite a few snowy owls and they played havoc with the quail and pheasant, made well nigh a clean sweep in some sections. In consequence a close season for both.

"Fishing has been poor so far, salmon are very scarce."

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A New Game Farm.

A new game farm, purchased by the State of New York, will be maintained by Cornell University. Game breeding experiments on a large scale will be undertaken and instruction will be given in scientific game farming.

There is a big demand for capable game-keepers and practical game farmers in the United States and Canada and *The Game Breeder* quickly can find places for all who may graduate at the new game school and farm, at excellent wages. It is to be hoped that the breeding of quail, grouse and wild turkeys in a wild state in protected fields and woods which are made attractive and safe will be taught.

We continually get reports of losses of quail and other indigenous game when attempts are made to breed these birds in captivity and we have splendid records from all the places where the birds

are bred wild, or semi-wild in protected fields.

Some interesting statistics about the number of quail, grouse and turkeys which can be safely reared on a given area should be secured. The use of wild roses, blackberry and other protective covers should be studied and bulletins on game breeding from such a farm will be interesting and valuable.

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Feeding Old Pheasants.

Various methods of feeding mature pheasants have been tried with success. Where a few birds are penned near a garden it is an easy matter to give them a variety of green food. I found my birds fond of an ear of green corn such as we used on the table and although a keeper advised against feeding green corn I often gave the birds in a small pen a few ears of corn and enjoyed seeing them eat it with avidity.

I fed cabbage and lettuce and other green stuff from the garden with scraps from the table including bread, an occasional meat bone with very little meat on it, potatoes, etc. There is more danger of over-feeding than of under-feeding penned pheasants and a very little wheat or other grain, some bread, potatoes and lettuce, cabbage, clover grass, etc., will keep the birds in good condition. The Spratt's foods are excellent and are used with great success as the breeding season approaches.

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Potatoes for Pheasants.

Tegetmeier says: "With regard to the food of the old birds in the pens the more varied it is the better. Good, sound grain such as maize, barley, buckwheat, malt, tail wheat, oats, etc. may be freely used. But maize should be used sparingly, as it is too fattening for laying pheasants or hens. Mr. Bailey recommends strongly an occasional feed of boiled potatoes, of which the birds are exceedingly fond. He writes, 'For bringing pheasants home or for keeping them there, we know of nothing equal to boiled potatoes. Let them be boiled with

the skins whole, and in that state taken to the place where they are to be used. Before they are put down, cut out of each skin a piece the size of a shilling, showing the meal within. Place them at moderate distances from each other and the birds will follow them anywhere.' Rice and damaged currants and raisins are very well for an occasional change, but should be sparingly used."

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Quail and Beans.

Very recently we made the statement that quail are beneficial and not harmful to agriculture, excepting the California valley quail when over abundant in vineyards. We are informed that other southwestern quail are a veritable pest in some places where they destroy beans. A New Mexican farmer, writing about the quail, says: "I lost three plantings of beans last year. I had put these under ditch where I could water them, and this year I lost a big patch which I planted in feteria, etc., to see if it would not hide them. But to no avail, for a hail storm could not have made them look worse. Please send instructions regarding catching them. I have about four acres and they have found the patch already, and they take to them like a drunkard to drink."

These quail should yield a profit of at least \$1,000 to the farmer every year and he can save the beans besides. A little rough planting of foods for the quail which they will prefer to the beans and a scare boy to keep them out of the bean patch is all that is needed. The boy need only be employed during a short season when the beans are attractive. The Game Breeder will furnish full instructions to any farmer, showing how he can make from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year when he has such a good crop of stock birds as is complained about in the letter quoted. We will guarantee that the bean crop also can be saved and we predict it will be only a side line in places where the opportunities for game ranching are so excellent. We will attend to selling the crop. Write to our advertisers for prices.

Pheasants, a Dog and a Trap.

A game breeder who recently called at the office of The Game Breeder said a dog dug under his pen and killed all of his pheasants, a good lot of birds, in one night. An Oneida trap, set for the dog, caught him the following night but the damage had been done.

We told him his wire should have been run under the ground and turned outward for a foot or more in order to prevent such occurrences, and that any animal digging would leave a sign which would indicate where to place the traps. He said he knew that now; and he would begin right next time. The pen was boarded at the bottom, as all pens should be to prevent passing animals from alarming the birds, but the dog easily dug under the boards. All that is necessary is to run a plough around the line of the proposed pen and to turn the sod out. The wire is then bent so as to lie flat in the furrow and the sod is replaced over it. A small mesh wire is best since it will keep out rats and other small vermin, and if traps for various enemies be placed outside the fence they will control any vermin which may seek to get in.

Every good game farm and preserve should have an abundance of traps. They are most important aids to the game preserver. Those who have not done so should write to the Oneida Community, Ltd., Oneida, N. Y., and get their excellent little book, *The Trapper's Guide*. It costs 25 cents and it has been the means of saving many game birds.

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New Game Breeding States.

Many states enacted game breeders' laws during the last winter and the number of game farms and preserves will increase rapidly as soon as the people know how to take advantage of the enactments permitting them to have an abundance of game and excellent shooting during a long open season.

We shall rapidly extend the educational campaign of the Game Conservation Society in the newly made "free" states, and it will be our policy in the future to give the most attention to the

states where game breeding and good shooting are legal industries.

We are most interested in the states where it no longer is criminal to produce prairie grouse, quail and other indigenous game. The common wild ducks, including the near mallards used for sport, and the common ring-necked and dark-necked pheasants—including the many half breeds, are becoming tremendously abundant in some states and since many new breeders are starting every month we feel sure the ducks and pheasants soon will be plentiful and fairly cheap in the markets.

It seems a pity to substitute foreign fowls for our splendid quail and grouse but the laws require this in Ohio and a few other states. We shall push the quail and grouse industry rapidly in states where the laws make it possible to do so and a big lot of money will go to the quail and grouse farms far more, we believe, than ever was sent abroad for pheasants and gray partridges.

We expect soon to have advertisements of quail and grouse and their eggs and the prices obtained when they become generally known soon will cause a big increase in the number of quail and grouse breeding reservations, game ranches and preserves. We expect to shoot on several places next winter where the bag runs over several thousand quail in a season and we believe it soon will be proper to describe these attractive places.

We, of course, will keep up the interest in pheasant breeding. Our readers who go in for quail and grouse will, no doubt, shoot many pheasants and ducks for good measure.

We advise all of the quail "shoots" to purchase and liberate a few pheasants in the early autumn. They will prove attractive in the field and on the table and those which escape the guns will nest on the ground, provided it be made safe and attractive.

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Wild Cats and the Proper Remedy.

The Maine Woods says: "Wildcats are becoming unusually bold. One was recently reported seen in Augusta and an Oquossoc man

reports seeing one near his home, running across a field with a rabbit in its mouth."

The old-fashioned way when wild cats and other vermin became abundant was to call attention to the vanishing game and enact laws prohibiting shooting for five or ten years. The modern way is to purchase some Oneida traps and to control the activities of the cats, wild and tame, and also many other game-eating ground and winged enemies, and to let the people have the grouse and other game which would be eaten in large quantities by vermin were the game not properly looked after.

Maine has just enacted a game breeders' law and some game farms have been started where we will venture to say the wild cats and other game enemies will not eat much game.

The Oneida Community, Ltd., Oneida, N. Y., whose advertisement appears regularly in *The Game Breeder*, publishes a valuable little book, "The Trapper's Guide," which tells how to take the game enemies. This costs only 25 cents, and we advise our readers who have not secured this book to do so. Many have purchased it and all speak well of it. In writing to the Oneida Community, Ltd., sign your letters, "Yours for more game" and they will know that you belong to the big and rapidly-growing family of those who are interested in the "sport producing."

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Game Wanted and For Sale.

We know that many people, many hundreds and probably many thousands of people, now want more game birds and deer for propagation purposes. Since the importations of pheasants and gray partridges have been ended by the war, those who want stock birds must purchase from American breeders. We have often wondered that more of our members do not advertise their wants.

They can be sure that practically all the breeders in the United States will read the advertisements no matter how small they may be and often they may get some desirable bargains. Some people find our advertisements the most instructive and valuable reading in the pub-

lication. There should be more of them, especially true want ads.—"pheasants wanted," "quail wanted," "wild ducks wanted," etc. They should be placed and left standing for several months.

There are a lot of people who have birds to sell, who do not advertise for one reason or another. They will be surprised at the results an advertisement, costing only a few cents, will produce. Try it, brothers, and see for yourselves. Remember always that even small ads. help the cause and make interesting reading.

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Keep Busy.

More Food! more wild geese! more wild turkeys! more grouse! more quail! more ducks! more deer! Remember, breeders, that it is your patriotic duty to produce more game of all kinds. Those who can afford to eat game will buy all that is offered at excellent prices and many tons of game will be purchased and eaten next fall and winter. Many who are rejected for war service still can get about sufficiently well on places where game is abundant to act as harvesters. The duty of the harvester is important and pleasureable. If too heavy for much walking try shooting from a pony, but keep busy; see that a big lot of game goes to those who will eat it. The ammunition should be exclusively that advertised in *The Game Breeder*. Our advertisers perform a patriotic duty.

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Good Work.

Reports coming to our Game Census indicate that hundreds of tons of game will be shot and eaten next fall and winter by those who produced the food. Good work!

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We regard it as the duty of all members of The Game Conservation Society to deal with those who advertise in their publication, *The Game Breeder*. Why should you buy elsewhere?

Why should any money be sent to those who do not take enough interest in the more game movement to support the magazine which stands for good game?

breeders' laws, good shooting and good markets which will keep up the good prices?

We are pleased to observe as we travel about the country that game clubs and game breeders every where are becoming more and more inclined to buy from members of the Society who support its publication.

If you want a dog or a gun or ammunition or deer, live birds, or eggs, write to our advertisers. If you do not get what you want write to us and we will hunt up some game or eggs or whatever you want, but in no case is it fair that we should say buy from this or that one until you have first written to those who have the best there is to sell and who make known what they have by advertising.

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To answer the big mail of The Game Conservation Society, coming from all parts of the United States and Canada, has been an impossibility for several months. Our secretary and his assistant are in the navy and army and readers who may think they are neglected are asked to be patient. The Game Guild soon will handle a good part of the correspondence. Its postage, however, is a big weekly bill and we hope all of our members who are interested will send the extra dollar. We assure them every cent will be expended to aid the more game movement in which we are all interested.

Those who wish game or eggs can buy safely from advertisers in The Game Breeder. The Game Guild protects purchasers and investigates all complaints which we are pleased to observe are very few in number.

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Those who offer their game birds now will get the biggest mail and will surely sell their birds at the best prices.

Often we have inquiries for trout and other game fish. Advertisers should keep their advertisements standing. A small space will sell the fish.

The Right Idea.

One of our advertisers writes: I have decided not to send any more

eggs excepting from my own pens. Buying from other parties has made me a good many enemies among my customers, since they got such poor results from the eggs furnished. I never know how old the eggs will be, and by the time they are shipped to me and re-shipped to my customer, another week or two elapses which makes them too old to get the best results. Two years ago one of my customers even reported to me that some of the eggs he had received were rotten, and what he had received were eggs that had been hatched and were thrown out. Only a week ago a party offered me some two thousand eggs. On going into the matter I found that they had been saved since the latter part of April. You know what a deal like this would come to. I find that it will be better for me to supply fewer customers and have them well satisfied, than to furnish a few more and spoiling my reputation. A customer lost in this line is not easily won back.

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Most of our advertisers send their advertisements without waiting to hear from us.

By advertising in The Game Breeder you help the more-game cause and yourself at the same time.

Letters come often from advertisers saying that The Game Breeder produces excellent results.

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Some absurdities in new laws are quite natural, but it is pleasing to observe they are discovered quickly and often are ended quickly.

It seems strange for any state game department to favor laws requiring the taking of game, "otherwise than by shooting." The shooters support the departments.

Love Me Love My Dog.

The other's talk was far less learned,
She lacked in looks and wit and such;
And yet my whole heart to her turned,
Because she liked my dog so much.

—New York Herald.

The Game Breeder

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FOOD PRODUCING PATRIOTIC.

We have been consulted recently about the formation of several big game preserves, two of which it is planned to make bigger food producers than any now on the map. Those who proposed to start these preserves have hesitated, thinking that perhaps it was not wise to undertake sport on a large scale just at this time when the country is at war.

While there might be some question as to the propriety of those suitable for war duty going in for sport on a large scale we have suggested another way of looking at the matter. We have proposed that those who, unfortunately, are rejected for military duty, as the writer was, might well start some big food-producing plants; that an abundance of food created by those who can afford to engage in the new industry is highly desirable just now. The harvesting of the crop, although it is quite sporty, should be considered a necessary incident to the important industry. Although the food, undoubtedly, will command high prices, the argument that some cannot afford to buy it amounts to nothing since those who prefer game and can afford to eat it will do so, leaving much meat for those who can afford beef and mutton, or who prefer to eat tame meat.

All of the young men from the office of The Game Breeder are serving in the army and navy, as many other able young men are, and as many more soon

will be serving. There are plenty of people, however, who are not eligible for service. We were turned down absolutely as too old and we propose to produce a lot of food. Others who are not permitted to enlist can engage in no better business just now than in the new food producing industry. Let the good work go on. It is as patriotic to produce game food as it is to produce any other kind of food. There is no better food for the people than game. Soon it can be made cheap.

We certainly have plenty of unused and gameless land.

FARMS AND LAWS.

Most of the states now permit farmers to shoot deer, rabbits and other protected game when they are found injurious to crops. It becomes more and more evident, as time passes, that laws suitable for one farm are not desirable for another, and many of the laws are highly detrimental to game farming; a most important food producing industry. Hence we say, keep the game laws off of the farms where game is being made abundant. Most capable state game officers say amen to this, after observing the desolation of the fields and ponds in general and the swarming game on the game farms. The truth of the matter is, a first-class game officer is not opposed to shooting and deplôres the idea of putting the tuneful quail and the drumming grouse on the song bird list.

NATURE'S BALANCE.

Nature, we all know, maintains a delicate balance. Easily it may be upset in the wrong direction and disaster results as surely as the night follows the day. Many plants produce an abundance of seeds on a single stalk. In a state of nature many of these seeds are eaten, many are destroyed in various ways and a few take root and become the plants for another season. If all of the seeds on a single stalk of wild wheat fell to the ground and became new plants the ground would not support them.

Darwin, in one of his simpler experi-

ments in a garden, noted that where only a few stalks of wheat were planted the birds took all the seed and there was no wheat the following season. Some birds as well as some plants seem to rely on numbers to preserve their kind.

Quail are very prolific. Millions would be the progeny of a single pair in a few years were the birds not destroyed in big numbers at some period of their existence. The land would not support them. Losses occur throughout the year. These are due to climate and to natural enemies for the most part. If, for any reason, the losses are small, as they are in good breeding seasons, mild winters, and when for any cause the natural enemies have a bad year, the quail, as all sportsmen know, will become very plentiful on land where there are covers, and foods, provided there has not been much shooting. There are times, however, when the quail stock becomes so small on account of losses that its enemies are superabundant, or in other words there are not enough quail left for the foxes, hawks, snakes and many other enemies. Nature's balance is said to be upset in the wrong direction and the quail under such conditions may become extinct even if there be no shooting. The wild turkey occurred in Ohio in small numbers when a law was enacted protecting them at all times; but the turkey became extinct.

Even a slight increase of the causes of destruction upsets nature's balance just as a slight betterment of conditions upsets nature's balance, in opposite directions, of course. The causes of destruction may be said to be naturally enhanced when the briars and other covers which are needed for the quail protection are destroyed. There may not be more hawks than usual but the quails which rely upon concealment and the protection of briars fall an easy prey when they have no place to hide and no briars to protect them from their enemies.

By no possibility could the prairie grouse be restored on vast areas where we once shot them abundantly without restoring some covers and foods, because as far as the eye can reach the grass and

the stubble are plowed under and the wild roses, sunflowers and other protecting covers and the necessary foods are eliminated at certain seasons of the year. The numerous prairie falcons (I have seen them in rows on the telegraph and telephone poles), look in vain for the grouse, which once formed a great part of their food. It is no wonder that naturalists find mice in the hawk stomachs, which formerly contained grouse, and that we are told not to shoot the beneficial hawks.

How absurd it seems for the people of the great prairie states, who easily could have all the grouse they could eat at prices surprisingly small, to listen to the advice of confirmed mischief makers who always advise laws preventing shooting, when anyone with an elementary knowledge of natural history and the laws which govern nature's balance knows full well that during the closed season many areas, where the grouse now occur in sufficient numbers to feed their natural enemies, will be made uninhabitable for the birds, as other vast areas are, and that in places where grouse are few and where their enemies are numerous nature's balance already is upset in the wrong direction. We wish to warn the people of the grouse states against the mischief making which we have stamped out in some of the eastern states with the result that those who look after game have an abundance. Those who do nothing find fair shooting, due to the efforts of the industrious. Remember that nature's balance already is upset badly in most of the grouse states and that laws preventing the work of those who will restore it should not be enacted.

GOOD ADVICE.

Mr. E. C. Hinshaw, the capable game warden of Iowa, says: "Let me repeat what I said two years ago, that more pounds of fish can be raised in an acre of proper water than it is possible to raise pounds of beef on the best lands that Iowa affords. These fish are worth more per pound than beef, and this does not take into consideration the recrea-

tion, which is much more valuable than either the fish or beef and cannot be figured in dollars and cents."

Let us not forget, in our mad rush for land to raise corn, that there are other things that count besides the almighty dollar. Let us preserve our lakes; let us improve our lakes.

TESTIMONIALS.

A Close Season for Game Breeding Advocated.

Editor Game Breeder:

It has suggested itself to me that one reason the murderers, forgers, burglars and those guilty of various degrees of larceny receive lighter punishment than the people whom your publication represents, may be the fact that the afore-said murderers, burglars, etc., have not become so criminally hardened as to publish a magazine upholding all of their crimes.

The greatest mistake, in the minds of Missouri sportsmen, the legislature of New York makes, is in not putting a closed season for 100 years on such publications as advocate law breaking on general principles. But then New York is New York and its Ruth Gruger, its gun men and Leon Lings do not excite the west very much.

Yours truly,
MISSOURIAN.

[Glad you are interested and not excited.

The facts in the case which interested the writer of the above testimonial, a new reader, were briefly as follows: A game breeder purchased a setting of mallard eggs in answer to an advertisement in a poultry magazine. He succeeded in raising a number of tame mallards and when he learned that he should have a license he wrote to the Conservation Commissioner and paid for a license. Shortly afterward he was told that he was liable for a fine of \$385 because he hatched the ducks before he applied for the license. He was arrested and The Game Conservation Society defended his case, being satisfied an honest mistake had been made and that the fine, if any, should be small. The jury found the defendant technically guilty, after a long deliberation, and recommended a small fine. Ten dollars was imposed and paid. We still believe food producers should not be punished more severely than burglars. We are pleased to see that courts and juries agree with us. But then Missouri is Missouri, and its stren-

uous ideas of game protection may result in the quail becoming a song bird there before long.

The writer is wrong in jumping at the conclusion that The Game Breeder is opposed to the execution of game laws. It simply insists that food producers should not be excessively fined in cases similar to the one referred to, when mistakes are innocently made.—Editor.]

Good Work.

Editor Game Breeder:

I cannot resist writing to say how much I appreciate your good work, not only in making it possible to breed game for sport and for profit, but also in defending breeders when they innocently make mistakes, as in the Boies case in procuring a few birds before applying for a breeder's license. The fact that he sent for a license as soon as he found out this was necessary indicates that he intended to obey the law and all breeders must be pleased that they have a friend who will see that they are not treated worse than common criminals when they make mistakes in starting. Many people agree with you that the license should be small, if any charge is made, in order to encourage food production.

When the sportsmen learn that quail shooting is being prohibited in one state after another and that the game breeders have been successful in preserving quail shooting on Long Island, not only for themselves but for all others, they will wake up to the idea that there is a way to preserve sport in America.

California. G. W. S.

More Fish.

The World, N. Y. Says: The advice to eat more fish and "win the war" is reiterated. The simultaneous increase in the market price of fish indicates that the dealers are prepared to help on the movement.

The Game Breeder says, "Eat more game," also and win the war. There is something doing in this line on a large scale by members of the Game Conservation Society.

In Dutchess Co., N. Y.

They want the jacks exterminated for fear they will eat up all the apple trees of the county.

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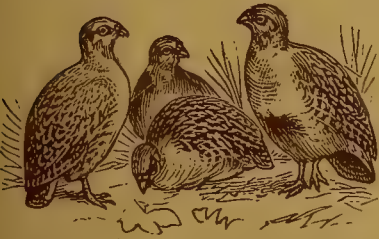
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THE GAME BREEDER

VOL. XL

SEPTEMBER, 1917

No. 6

THE OBJECT OF THIS MAGAZINE IS
TO MAKE NORTH AMERICA THE BIGGEST
GAME PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



HOW ABOUT THESE DUCKS?

In our January issue we asked our readers' opinion about some ducks, the picture of which appeared on the cover. A large number of readers wrote their opinions. A reader now sends the above portrait and asks for an opinion about the birds. What are they—Mallards or Near-Mallards?

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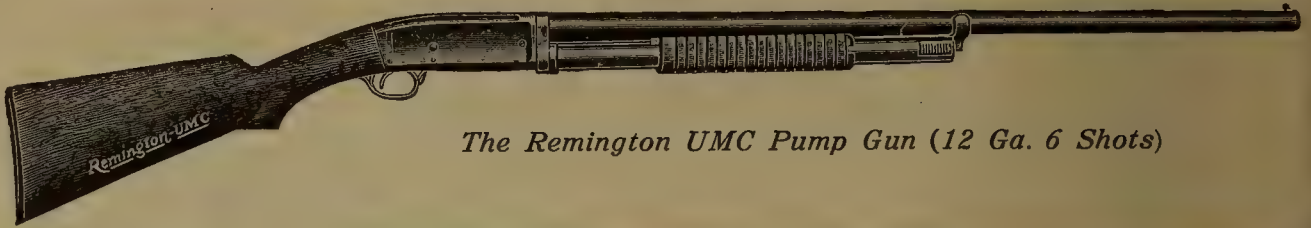
"If the advice of Dwight W. Huntington, pioneer and apostle of the movement in this country for a rational game protection and conservation, be acted upon, the time is coming speedily when game will be as cheap as beef or mutton. At present, after fifty years of legal protection, we have no game to amount to anything save in the more remote sections. . . . The book is not only instructive in an economic sense, showing how to make wild duck preserves safe and attractive, how to get stock and eggs and the food required, but is delightful reading for all. The author of 'Our Wild Fowl and Waders' is doing a great public service in his campaign for more game."

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Editorials—Game Abundance—New Game Farms and Preserves—Will the Singer Survive?

Correspondence—Outings and Innings—Trade Notes, Etc.

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The Game Breeder

Published Monthly. Entered as second-class matter, July 9, 1915, at the Post Office, New York City, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOLUME XI

SEPTEMBER, 1917

NUMBER 6



SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

Our Part in the Crisis.

Fish and Game, the bulletin of the California Game Department, well says the present crisis demands thoughtful action on President Wilson's suggestions:

"This is our opportunity to demonstrate the efficiency of a great Democracy, and we shall not fall short of it.

"The supreme test of the Nation has come. We must all speak, act and serve together."

Cannot these suggestions be followed in efforts to conserve our wild life?, the Bulletin asks:

They can. We can quickly make it a great, abundant and cheap food supply far bigger, more plentiful and less expensive than game is in other more civilized countries where it is cheaper than poultry during long open seasons. We have an abundance of gameless land which is suitable for game breeding. Using very little of it, the markets can be made to overflow with cheap game in a year's time, provided we, "all speak, act and serve together."

This result cannot be accomplished by enacting laws prohibiting the having of game birds in possession for breeding purposes and prohibiting shooting for terms of years or forever. Such legislation provides game for cats and other vermin but it prevents a much needed industry. Issue permits to take all species of game for breeding purposes! Stop arresting game breeders! Encourage the profitable production of the food every where, and we will guarantee that the game breeders who are rejected for military service and capable women, many of whom are now breeding game,

will fill the markets within a year's time. They will keep them full of cheap game. Some enterprising and patriotic state game officers are now encouraging the new industry and, "it's greatly to their credit." The time surely has arrived when we should "all speak, act and serve together."

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Where the Wild Food Will Come From

We have been surveying the entire field recently and travelling much in order to form an estimate as to the amount of game breeding which is going on and where the wild foods probably will come from to supply our markets.

It is evident that no food will be furnished by such states as Alabama and Virginia if we are correctly informed, and none of the money (hundreds of thousands of dollars, which once were sent abroad for game and soon will go to American game farms) will find its way to the states named.

The money all will go to states which have game officers who are aware that game easily can be produced abundantly and who know the difference between the statesman-like handling of any public question and the playing of small politics. Fortunately there is enough free territory where profitable food production is a legal industry to quickly supply the markets in all the states where the people have a reasonable amount of freedom in the way of purchasing and eating game. Places where such performances are followed by jail sentences, of course will remain gameless if their markets be considered as the criterion.

Good Food Producers.

We know several states that now produce many tons of game. A good part of it does not yet reach the markets because of the high prices, paid for live game for propagation. The big game farms and preserves, however, soon will furnish thousands of birds for the people to eat and field sports again will become possible and popular. There can be no reasonable objection to a food producing sport which feeds the people with cheap meat. The silly, sentimental sport which claims only to kill things for fun is an easy mark for those who wish to prohibit sport and game breeding.

To proceed rapidly it is absolutely necessary to obtain more breeding stock. Quail and grouse still occur in many states and there are more wild fowl in America than any country in the world. The trapping and distribution of a few thousand stock birds will result in the production and sale of many millions of birds, since, where they are properly looked after, the increase in numbers is geometrical. Already there are breeding farms where thousands of pheasants, ducks and other game birds are produced in a season. The crying need is for more stock birds. They can be procured easily if some of the state game officers will stop holding that the laws permitting the taking of birds for scientific purposes only mean that museums and collectors may trap birds to mount and exhibit them. Nothing can be more scientific than the multiplication of game birds by breeders for food. The state game officer who stands in the way of the food producer at this time is a standing disgrace to his country and should be drafted and sent abroad.

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The Audubons and Food Production.

Professor Pearson, the Secretary of the Audubon Association says the Association is not opposed to field sports. We have repeatedly said the Association is not opposed even to the sale of all species of game which is produced and shot for food.

The only objection any one can have

to the recent quail law disaster in Ohio is that the Association forgot to except game breeders when its bill prohibiting quail shooting was written.

There is great danger in any state when a law is proposed prohibiting shooting for a term of years that the farmers will take a hand and prohibit it forever. They will not oppose a law permitting game breeding.

The Audubon Association now has a department of applied ornithology which is supposed to favor game food production but it certainly is carelessness not to except the food producer when preventive legislation is proposed.

Our objection to the national migratory bill is based largely on the fact that the food producing industry is not recognized. Regulations made by those who do not favor the sale of game easily may hamper and destroy much of the good work which has been accomplished by The Game Conservation Society.

We believe the accident in Ohio will result in much good when it is proposed to prohibit the shooting of our native game in other states. It must be evident that such legislation puts an end to the production of our most desirable foods and such performances just now are not timely.

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"Way Down South in Alabama, Where the Darkies Plant the Cotton and the Corn."

The silver-tongued state game officer of Alabama overflows thus:

Alabama—there's magic in thy matchless name—fairest queen of the States, thy face is white with the cotton fields of the Tennessee Valley, silks of the blooming corn are thy flowing tresses, thy cheeks are rosy with the apples and peaches that blush as they ripen upon thy everlasting hills. Around thy graceful throat, as a lover would entwine a diamond necklace about his sweetheart's snowy neck, is that magnificent river, the pearly-paved Tennessee, that has wandered here from the vine-clad hills of Virginia to pay loyal tribute to thy shrine, only to dash on with new momentum, eager to extol the grandeur of a matchless realm, happy and peaceful with contentments and joyous songs. About thy waist is a belt of polished steel, set with diamonds, black, yet precious, that have dazzled the

world with the magnitude of their princely value. Thy skirt of fleecy cotton is bespangled by the needles of the long-leaf pine, while thy dainty feet are laved by the soft waters of the opal gulf. From the waving woods and clustering hills of North Alabama, resonant with the songs of trilling wild birds, to the sunny shores of Mobile, is a land where if

"There's peace to be found in the world,
Hearts that are humble may hope for it here."

Which leads us to enquire, and our language is plain: Why, in the name of good sense, don't you send us some game?

The Game Breeder.

P. S.—Alabama should be shipping hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of game annually to the American markets now that it is no longer possible to send the money abroad for foreign game. Get busy, add the game crop to the cotton and the pine and the poetic expression above can be amended to suit the jingle of the dollars which will be found useful in Alabama as elsewhere. We will promise to send the money if you will furnish the "goods."

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Elephant Hamburger Tough but Filling.

Under the above heading The World, N. Y., quotes Miss Marie Brown, an American singer, who recently arrived on a Norwegian liner. She told of eating zoo meat in Leipzig. The lions and tigers were eaten first. Then the elephants were killed for market. "I ate some of the elephant meat myself," Miss Brown said. "It was not any too palatable, but it was filling. It was so tough it had to be ground up to eat. The monkeys and birds were about the only things left in the zoo."

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American Game.

The members of The Game Conservation Society are now breeding game so rapidly and abundantly that it will not be necessary to send the animals of our zoo to market. Thousands of acres of land which were gameless are being made to yield abundantly and the number of patriotic citizens who are going into the

new industry is surprising. In today's mail we have letters from three game farms, sending advertisements, all of which have thousands of game birds to sell. Many thousands of deer, elk and antelope are owned by members of The Game Conservation Society who are breeding these animals, and many buffaloes, also, are owned by breeders. The society is well equipped to save the New York Zoo and the other American zoos from the fate of the Leipzig and the other German zoos.

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A Complaint.

We have received an interesting letter from Hon. E. B. McCutcheon, Secretary of the North Dakota State Sportsmen's Association, in which he says our comment on the work of the Association seems to be incorrect.

The matter he refers to was simply intended as a warning for the future and not as a criticism of the past. We were delighted to read the following in the prospectus and we quoted it in full. We take pleasure in quoting it again:

"Do you realize you narrowly escaped a closed season on native birds; that a bill nearly passed preventing the use of dogs; that Sunday shooting was nearly eliminated; that certain kinds of guns and the use of automobiles for hunting were nearly barred? Do you realize that unless we wake up, these things will be slipped over next session? Can you not see that we have been killers not breeders of birds?"

It cannot be denied that there is a great danger of the things referred to being, "slipped over next session." Our remarks which Mr. McCutcheon regards as unfriendly were made in the most friendly spirit and were intended as a warning that if the sportsmen simply organized to look after legislation there was a great danger that they might be induced to stand for laws creating closed seasons and preventing the use of certain kinds of guns, etc., regardless of the fact that such closed seasons would be extended from time to time as they have been in other states which have big protective associations. There is great danger that numerous things will be "slipped over."

Why the Grouse Vanish.

The grouse of the open country vanish quickly when the virgin prairie is cultivated because their natural covers and foods are plowed under on vast areas, making them uninhabitable for grouse, which are birds which rely upon concealment for their existence. Like all other forms of life they must have something to eat. Any one who will look at the vast areas in Dakota which are planted in wheat will observe that during the season when the fields are ploughed there is absolutely no cover as far as the eye can reach. Later there are vast areas of emerald wheat which do not offer the necessary concealment for the grouse. Let us imagine that an association appealing to the legislature to save the grouse, because the buffalo has disappeared, succeeds in enacting some new restrictive laws or in preventing the new measures being "slipped over." Can any one imagine that laws obtained or laws defeated will restore the grouse to places where they can not live, or that it will prevent the cultivation of other vast areas, where a few birds still may occur, in such a manner that the grouse must vanish.

We wished simply to point out to the new protective association the impossibility of getting anywhere unless some practical propagation and protection be undertaken. We have only words of praise for the prospectus. We wish to sound a warning for the future based on the results in many states.

=

Grouse Clubs.

To provide for some fine grouse shooting on places where there are no birds the sportsmen should form some inexpensive grouse clubs similar to those which have saved the quail shooting in some states and in parts of others where the industry of game production is legal.

The dues in some of these clubs are only \$15 to \$25 per year. They rent the right to preserve game from the farmers for a few cents per acre. A square mile often is rented for \$32.00 per year. Strips of cover should be planted con-

sisting of wild roses and other briars and some food should be left standing and a little extra food and grit can be supplied in the winter. The game protective association which will provide grouse shooting in the manner suggested will soon have enough grouse for all of its members and in the fall many grouse will be found in the stubbles for miles about. The meat secured by the members will offset the amount of their dues.

=

Good Advice.

Having shot much in North Dakota and also in many of the other states we feel that we know what the shooting was, what it is, and what it should be. We became converted to the game farming idea after a good day's shooting on free territory within a few miles of New York City, which is said to contain about one-twentieth part of the entire population of the United States. We were surprised at the good shooting which we found just outside of a club ground (near the city) where the dues are \$15 per year. We shot quail, a woodcock and a grouse during a short day's shooting. Later we ran some dogs over the ground, by permission, and were more than surprised at the number and size of the covies. Had we been shooting easily we could have taken more than \$15 worth of meat during the day. We decided that the shares in the club were well worth the money.

We only intended in our remarks about North Dakota to give some good advice which is here amplified, and we were surprised to have Mr. McCutcheon write that we were unfair in our criticism. We have nothing but praise for the sentiment quoted from the prospectus. We hope the laws will make it worth while for those who wish to do so to have excellent shooting during long open seasons and that the game will be saved without the usual appeals to the legislature calling attention to the loss of the buffalo.

Trap-shooting clubs procure their clay birds. Why should not bird-shooting clubs procure and protect their birds in a practical manner?

MALLARDS, NEAR MALLARDS AND WILD TURKEYS.

BY R. A. CHILES.

I have always felt that it seemed too much like beating the periodical and obtaining advertising or notoriety, whichever you may choose to term it, by breaking into print unless we paid for same. I also remember what Job (not Dr. Job, the author of "Propagation of Wild Birds") said "Oh that mine enemy would write a book." But the recent mallard duck egg controversy* moved me to break a well-settled rule.

What I have to say is my own experience. I do not attempt to cite the experience of others.

After years of careful observation it has been my experience that if the greenhead or so-called gray mallard is kept closely confined and continually inbred without using any wild cross that in three years' time he loses his power of flight and is nothing but a puddle duck. This applies although the parent stock was pure wild trapped birds and there was not the least chance for cross-breeding. Two reasons seem to cause this. First, mallards raised in captivity become extremely gentle and soon cease to be man shy. Second, all wild birds that are raised in captivity and fed regularly, not having to hustle for a living, put on weight and thicken especially about the neck. And even if more or less shy or wild the wing not growing any longer or larger than before has not the weight lifting power, with increased body weight, to take the birds through the air at such a rate of speed, even if inclined to fly, as to make them a good sporting proposition.

We try to overcome this defect by each year introducing wild blood into the flock. Now right here it would be well to state that we have never had a wild caught drake to mate the first year

after we confined him and very seldom has a wild caught duck laid in captivity the first year and if she did it was seldom that the eggs, or any of them, were fertile. To get good results we have to wait until the second or even the third year after captivity.

Again, to overcome the tendency to domesticity, we have never tried any of the following suggestions but we understand a state game farm to which we made these suggestions is trying these experiments this year to see if the birds will not remain shy. The reason we have never tried it is because being dealers and breeders we want to keep our birds pure but to get a good egg yield they must be gentle.

First, select a quiet spot and let the mallards (old) be wing clipped and enclosed in a fair sized run that is connected with running water or a pond with plenty of rushes in them; after they nest and begin to brood the eggs remove the wire enclosure and after incubation let the old duck hustle with the young for themselves. Do not attempt to feed or care for them in any way; or, second, let domestic ducks hatch the eggs and turn the ducks loose on the stream or pond in the same manner; or, third, if obtainable, get each year eggs from the nests of pure wild birds which is a precarious proposition.

It might be well to add here that to the sportsman who is advised or posted on the subject that under the above conditions it is impossible to furnish eggs in large quantities and at cheap prices, the wild birds will not lay as many eggs, and a great many young ducks will be lost from turtles and other vermin, and the mature birds will be correspondingly higher.

As to the duck raised in captivity it has always been a mystery to us how he could be produced and sold at a profit at

*A recent case before the Game Guild when the seller shipped eggs bought from another breeder.

some of the prices advertised; it has been our experience that to raise a duck to maturity it costs us about \$1.50 per head as against 75 cents for feed for a pheasant.

While we only handle pure bred mallards, we do not think from a sporting proposition it is material whether it is a pure bred mallard or crossed with black or some other breed if it can fly, fly fast and hard. What the sportsman wants is sport and if he gets that what matters it whether the duck is half gray and half black or some other mixture? If he flies fast and is good food.

We think, however, that all advertisements should state and the advertiser should be strictly held to the same that the birds are pure bred, and if of a strong flying strain to say so and if not to not say so.

We also frequently hear the complaint this duck does not taste like the ones we killed in Minnesota, or on other lakes or marshes. Certainly he does not if raised in captivity; we never heard that corn, wheat and mash tended to impart a game flavor to birds reared in captivity, unless they be given the same food the wild birds feed on viz., wild celery, rice, wapato, etc. And not to be

caught four-flushing we want to say ours do not get these foods; they are not here and they cost more than we can afford to properly stock. Had we the means and were we going to shoot or eat the birds we would do this, for without these necessary foods or unless the ducks are raised on lakes and marshes we would as soon eat a good fat puddle duck as a mallard raised on corn, wheat and mash. No matter how he is served we defy any one to distinguish the difference.

What we say absolutely applies to the wild turkey also. And he will, like the mallard, lose his shyness and wariness when raised in captivity as well as his powers of flight. To keep this king of all game birds up to snuff as he is in the wild he has to be raised in the wild, you cannot raise him on a "bottle" and then expect him to remain a game bird, it takes a large space well wooded and secluded to keep this bird game.

And there are very few real wild turkeys in captivity; nearly all we have seen are crossed with the domestic, or have been in captivity so long as to have entirely lost all their original type.

[We believe where ducks are reared in the manner suggested "letting the old duck hustle with the young," it is advisable to feed them once a day, at 4 p. m.—Editor.]

RAISING PHEASANTS.

REV. R. W. SIEGLER.

In this article I shall describe in detail how I raise my pheasants, with special reference to my pure Mongolians. This is my eighth year for raising Golden, and for the last three years I have also kept some Lady Amhersts. I have had exceptionally good luck in raising Golden, even this year in spite of all the cold and rainy days during the spring months.

Last winter I resolved to try my luck also with the pure Mongolian. I had seen a nice colored engraving of this magnificent pheasant and later some live

birds in a zoological garden. Of all the larger species in that garden none seemed more pleasing to my eyes than the pure Mongolian.

As this pheasant had been some years ago confounded in our country with the Ringneck, *P. Torquatus*, and as some breeders of pheasants are still confounding the pure Mongolian with the Ringneck, as can be readily seen by the engravings and descriptions in their circulars, I wrote to one of our famous pheasant breeders, living in Illinois, asking him for his opinion regarding the

pure Mongolian. This breeder replied that he had some pure Mongolians brought over from England two years ago, and that I could purchase eggs of the pure birds from him. I therefore gave him an order for 12 eggs, paying \$10 for them for May delivery.

These eggs were sent to me May 23, and he included one extra egg of the Japanese pheasant. In order to have some good clucks on hand for these eggs I had set two Bantams (mixed breed) about two weeks before the eggs arrived.

The nests for my pheasant eggs I keep near the house under some shade tree, away from the chicken yard and stable. The nests are placed on the ground, covered over with a well ventilated coop. A slight depression is made in the ground, in which a small quantity of good dry hay is arranged. These nests are inspected every other day in order to see whether any nest is in bad order or containing a broken or dirty egg. The coop with the nest is built in such a way that no strong, cold wind can blow over the eggs, while the cluck has left the nest, and still it had good ventilation. Strong cold spring winds striking the eggs, while the hen has left the nest, will ruin, if not all, at least many an egg. Furthermore I'm very careful to rid the clucks of lice and mites, for these kill more poults in their early stage of life and cause the cluck to ruin more eggs in the nests than anything else. I have had wonderful good success in killing lice and mites on hens with mercurial ointment. This is applied a little below the vent and for head lice also a little on the head of the clucks during the first and last week of incubation. All this is very essential in order to have good success in raising pheasants.

On June 18th, after the eggs had been pecked about two days before, ten little poults of the Mongolian eggs were found in the nest; one was lying dead in front of the cluck, but the other nine were alive. The remaining three eggs were fertile also, but the poults, which were nearly fully developed, had died in the shell. Considering that these eggs

had been shipped several hundred miles by express, this was certainly a very good hatch and I was more than pleased with the same.

The first 24 hours the poults are left undisturbed with the clucks. After that I place the clucks with their poults in a common cracker box, which has a partition in the center made out of laths, in order to feed the poults on one side of the coop, where the cluck can not reach and eat their food. The bottom of this coop is covered with coarse dry gravel. Two days later this coop is connected with a run 3x4x1 ft., with screen on two sides and later on also covered on top with 1 inch wire netting. The bottom of this run is also covered with dry coarse gravel. This run rests on four legs, each about 6 inches long from coop to floor. This run with coop is kept standing on the porch excepting on very mild and sunny days, when they are set out into some sunny place in the garden. But I always provide for plenty of shade for the poults. Keeping the poults penned up in this manner the first few weeks protects them against rain and keeps them off the cold, moist ground, which is oftentimes detrimental to them in their early stage of life. After they are two or three weeks old—all depending upon the season—they are placed in a larger run in the garden, 14x14x3 ft., an inclosure of 1 inch wire netting. The poults wing feathers are cut every week or so to hinder them from flying over the fence. During the nights and stormy, rainy weather they are shut up in a large grocery box, the whole front being covered with screen, including the door.

The poults are not fed the first 24 hours. Then I feed them egg-custard. Others feed hard boiled eggs instead of custard. I also give them fresh drinking water from the time I begin to give them feed. To this is added the next day finely cut lettuce and also maggots. I keep on feeding them all the maggots they care to eat. To raise these maggots I use a piece of fresh beef liver, placed upon some moistened bran. And in order to be well supplied with mag-

gots, I start a new hatch every 5th or 6th day thereafter. When poults are 4 days old, I begin to feed them also some of Wallace Evans' (St. Charles, Ill.), pheasant food No. 1 and when a week and a half old also some of his food No. 3. The food vessels are always kept thoroughly clean. After the poults are about 5 weeks old, I discontinue feeding egg-custard and maggots. After they are eight weeks old, I feed them Wallace Evans' pheasant food Nos. 2 and 4 and plenty of green food, lettuce, dandelion, lawn clippings, etc. This way I have been feeding my young Golden and also my Mongolians and certainly with great success.

Up to this date I have not lost one of those nine Mongolians. Some time ago one of them seemed to be slacking

behind. After close examination discovered that it had a piece of hard custard egg clogged in beneath its tongue and that it could not eat very well on that account. After I had removed this—which caused considerable bleeding,—it quickly recovered and is now as large and strong as the rest. Now they are more than eight weeks old and already larger than their foster mother, beginning to change colors and losing their first tail feathers. They are very tame, but very swift on their legs and good flyers. Later on I shall put them in a run 24x8x4 feet.

There are many ways of raising pheasants. And my method described is certainly not the only way, but it is a method which I have followed with great success.

QUAIL BREEDING FOR SPORT AND FOR PROFIT.

Part I.

By D. W. HUNTINGTON.

Losses Due to Farm Machinery.

Since many quail nest in fields of grass and grain there is much danger of losses due to farm machinery when the hay and grain are harvested. These losses can be much reduced by inducing the quail to nest in safe places at the sides of the fields or in small enclosures especially set aside for the game.

Dr. Judd well says, "If bobwhites more frequently nested along fence rows instead of in open mowing land, they would be observed in many places where they are rare. The mowing machine lays many nests bare, and they are either despoiled by enemies or deserted by the old birds. At Sandy Spring, Maryland, early in July, 1913, four nests with their eggs were cut over in a fifty-acre grass lot. In other hay fields several nests were discovered in time to leave grass uncut about them, but boys robbed them all. Between such lads and the crows and other enemies bobwhites have a hard time in certain sections."

The reader will see the importance of

having special covers provided for the birds at the sides of the fields in which some can be induced to nest by driving them out of the grasses and where they can resort with their young when the grain and grass is cut and also when the fields are plowed and made bare. Very small covers, little briar patches with some grass and grain left standing are all that are needed and the more evenly such covers are distributed the more abundant and evenly distributed the game will be found. In places where quail are preserved for sport or for profit many birds can be induced to nest in safe places by making especially attractive nesting sites in briars. Nests in standing grain and grass should be found and some grass and grain can be left standing about them. This will be quite worth while now that the average covey of birds is worth from \$30 to \$40. The birds have been selling readily at \$2 and \$3 each in large lots.

W. Barry, Esq., of Witchingham Hall, England, writing about partridge preser-

vation, says: "Numbers of old as well as young birds get killed or mutilated during the hay cutting, and I lose hundreds of birds during this fortnight. The young ones that escape also receive a check in being deprived of their food in the grass fields. There is, in my opinion, far more food there than in the corn." He says he "gets the farmers to leave the last acre, and the keepers cut it with scythes early the next morning. It is very necessary to have keepers in the fields whilst they are being cut."

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Climate Losses and Their Prevention.

The worst losses due to climate occur when the birds are quite young and again in the winter when the snows are deep and the mercury is low. Cold rains and hail storms at and just after the hatching time are disastrous, but where there are good covers, briar patches, bushes and trees the young quails will survive a storm much better than they can be expected to in places where there are no good covers. Small evergreen trees and low branching scrub oaks and many other desirable covers can well be preserved for the birds where such covers occur or they can be introduced in places which need cover. Some shelters easily can be made in briar patches by placing some brush or bushes on the briars. Corn shocks left standing or especially put up make splendid shelters. They should be loosely constructed with several openings so that if an enemy should come in at one side the birds easily can run out at the other.

In severe winters the keeper should feed his birds abundantly at regular feeding places, preferably in or near briar patches, and when a heavy snow falls and an ice crust forms a snow plow is run across the fields on some preserves and the birds are found and liberated near the feeding places.

Many birds often come to the barn yards on farms and these usually suffer no losses in the winter. I have known of the birds being trapped in exposed situations and held with clipped wings in a barn until the severe winter weather was over.

Losses Due to Irrigation and Fires.

In regions where fields are flooded from irrigation ditches the losses of nests and eggs often must be large. Readers of *The Game Breeder* will remember the case of Miss Rahlman, of California, who gathered a lot of quail eggs in irrigated fields when the birds were forced to desert their nests and hatched them successfully. The proper remedy, of course, where quail are reared in places where the fields are irrigated is to induce them to nest in fields which are made especially attractive by planting an abundance of food and covers. The eggs from nests in irrigated fields should be gathered and hatched under bantams or in incubators. The old birds also should be trapped whenever possible and removed to attractive fields where they can be held in wire enclosures until the nesting season arrives. If the field be made especially attractive they no doubt can be induced to nest in safe places where there are plenty of berry briars to protect them from vermin and plenty of food of various kinds.

Quail often are inclined to nest in lowlands and near streams which are subject to overflow. Many nests are destroyed by water in such places. The birds can be induced to nest elsewhere by destroying the cover on the dangerous ground or they can be trapped and held on safe and attractive ground, to be liberated at the nesting time.

In the prairie States many grouse and quail nests are destroyed by prairie fires and by fires which are set by those who wish to burn their fields. The remedy, of course, is to prevent the prairie fires and to induce the land owners to stop burning in the spring. When it is made worth while for the land owners to have game on their lands or to permit game breeding many of the losses, which often are tremendous, can be entirely prevented.

I am inclined to believe many eggs are saved when the nests are made, as often they are, under the lower rail of rail fences, and the careful quail preserver might well attempt to induce some of his birds to nest under shelters where

good nests are especially prepared for them. Some wide shelters might also be provided for the young birds, and if they be made attractive some old birds would, no doubt, lead their young in out of the wet. It would be interesting to learn if quail will lay their eggs to nest eggs or white marbles as one of our California members says his quail do in enclosures. If the same food suitable for young

quail be placed near or under the shelter referred to this might save many birds in a bad season.

A good beat keeper can attend to these matters without much expense, but it must be worth while to employ him. This will not be done in States which have close seasons for terms of years or which prevent quail breeding.

NOTES FROM THE STATE GAME DEPARTMENTS.

In the October issue of The Game Breeder will be published abstracts of laws regulating game breeding in the various States. These abstracts are based on reports made to The Game Breeder by the State game officers, many of whom are sincerely interested in restoring the game to our markets and in making their departments of great economic importance to all of the people.

Some game officers write that their laws are not yet as liberal as they should be; others frankly admit that the legislation in their States is not up to modern requirements and that they realize they are far behind the times.

The total area of the States where it is no longer a criminal performance to produce game food for sport and for the markets is now larger than the combined areas of the three foreign countries which have the most cheap game on sale during long open seasons, and we fully believe with the aid of the patriotic State game officers who are quite up to date in their ideas of what should be done, it will be an easy matter to make America the biggest game producing country in the world within two years.

Very little land will be required to accomplish this result and since most of it is now posted against all shooting the results of the restoration of game and field sports will be highly beneficial to those who enjoy shooting.

Many State game officers are encouraging the greater production of game fish also and in some States trout and

other fish are becoming plentiful in the markets. As the State departments become of more economic importance we believe the officers should receive larger salaries and that the clerical and warden force also should be increased and better paid.

It will remain important always to regulate the shooting and to protect the game on public waters, marshes and in forests and unposted fields, and we have observed where game is bred abundantly on private farms it tends to keep it abundant on the vast areas where there should be no possible objection to public shooting.

We are glad to observe that most of the State officers are very friendly to The Game Breeder and many are members of the Game Conservation Society and undoubtedly believe as we do that game abundance on the occupied farms and later in the markets, where all of the people can have it at moderate prices, will tend to put an end to the opposition to field sports which has been strong enough in some States to put an end to sport for terms of years or forever.

There is plenty of room for all kinds of shooting in America and when the traveler looks out of the car window and views the vast areas suitable for upland game which are uninhabited either by people or game and the thousands of ponds which should contain wild fowl but have none, he must be impressed with the fact that if syndicates

of sportsmen with small annual dues can be induced to produce millions of birds on some of the desolate upland areas and on the ponds they will not only provide sport for themselves and food for the people, but will furnish game to restock the rest of the country and to fly out to the vast public bays and marshes where the shooting will be much improved.

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Wild Ducks in Utah.

J. C. Smith, the No. 2 District Warden of Utah, reports the duck shooting was very satisfactory last season. The disastrous malady, reported in The Game Breeder, he says "has practically disappeared and birds are more plentiful."

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Black Bear in Minnesota.

The Game and Fish Commissioner of Minnesota says: "The black bear is distributed over a considerable area of the State, but so sparsely that it is only occasionally that a deer or moose hunter incidentally secures one. There is no protection afforded bear under our law—no closed season which there should be. The bear is comparatively harmless, is only

found in almost uninhabited places, is an interesting animal and valuable both for his belt and for food. The animal should receive more attention with a view to its preservation."

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Beaver in Utah.

Mr. Fred W. Chambers, the Fish and Game Commissioner of Utah, says: "The beaver and otter have been protected for the last eight years and show a marked increase in the eastern and southeastern part of Utah. The department receives many complaints from farmers and ranchmen to the effect that the beaver are doing damage to the canals and wooded sections. However, the law is adequate and whenever this is found to be the case the beaver are trapped and transferred to another part of the State or killed."

Why not encourage some profitable beaver farming. Skunk farming is getting to be quite an industry in Michigan and elsewhere and the encouragement of profitable trout breeding in Utah certainly has produced good results in Utah as it has in Colorado and many other States East and West.



NOTES FROM THE GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

Black Ducks.

It is evident that the demand for black ducks and their eggs is increasing rapidly. One of our southern breeders writes: "Unless I can capture some more black duck stock I will probably be on the market for black ducks myself."

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Wild Geese.

Mr. Albert N. Froom of The New Holland Farms, New Holland, Hyde County, North Carolina, who advertises wild geese writes: "As to people being able to keep wild geese, I know that all the requirements for wild geese are a pool of water for breeding purposes and plenty of grass; succulent feeds of beets,

potatoes, cabbage and grain suffice for the winter months."

"I find them one of the easiest fowls to keep. They soon learn to look for their herder. Keep their wings under control (pinioning I regard as best) and you have some fine game."

Mr. Froom has a good lot of wild geese for sale at reasonable prices.

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Geese on the Preserve.

Every game farm and preserve which has a pond and suitable meadow for geese should have at least a few of these birds. They surely will attract migratory geese and a few wild geese in the bag and on the table are quite worth while.

Quail Breeding Permitted.

A western member writes: "We had a very good example the other day of your theory of the fertility of quail eggs where the eggs are procured from wild bred birds. We obtained 17 eggs from one nest of wild birds. All were fertile. We hatched 15 and the hen destroyed the other two in the nest."

We shall be interested to know about the rearing of the young quail. We are strongly of the opinion that if the young quail could be permitted to run in a garden or specially prepared field wired and trapped against vermin the chances of rearing the flock would be better than they are and we are strongly of the opinion the young birds would be taught to run to the briars when alarmed and would be better equipped to escape natural enemies when turned down on the preserve than any quail reared by a domestic hen are. Reports often indicate that tame quail reared by bantams often disappear soon after they are turned down on the shooting ground.

We believe a cock quail can be induced to rear a brood just as cock partridges are used in England to rear broods of partridges.

The Egg Season.

Now is the time to begin advertising eggs for next season. Already we have inquiries for thousands of eggs for some new game farms and preserves and we believe those who advertise large numbers of eggs can begin booking orders.

A Patriotic Duty.

People who hesitated about starting some big game farms have accepted our advice that it is a patriotic duty to produce all the game possible. Although the prices may remain up, there are plenty of people who are patriotic enough to eat game several times during the week and who can afford to do so. As we have remarked before they will leave some beef and mutton for those who prefer tame meat.

Many new fish ponds are being started and states which have not amended their

laws to permit the sale of game fish produced by industry in private waters should do so at once. Trout are sold abundantly in Colorado and some other states and the breeding of bass is becoming an interesting and valuable industry.

City Game For Sale.

Mr. Peter McIntosh, Assistant Purchasing Agent of the City of Portland, Oregon, sends the following advertisement of buffaloes, elk and other game which came too late to be of service. His letter was mailed August 13 and the date of sale is earlier than our publication date for September.

NOTICE OF SALE OF BUFFALOES, ELK, ETC., BY THE CITY OF PORTLAND.

Notice is hereby given that I will sell at public auction August 27, 1917, at 2 P. M., to the highest bidder for cash as follows:

At Washington Park, the following animals more or less:

- 4 Buffaloes
- 12 Elk
- 6 Japanese Deer
- 3 Native Deer
- 4 Bear
- 2 Coyotes
- 3 Monkeys
- 100 Guinea Pigs
- 18 Ducks
- 100 Canaries.

DAN KELLAHER,
Purchasing Agent,

City of Portland, Oregon.

Date of first publication, August 10, 1917.

Duck Breeding in Michigan.

F. STEPHENSON.

I breed a few wild ducks, more for pleasure than anything else; at least I have not made a large fortune out of them up to the present.

But, believe me, I do have a sensation of fullness once in a while, and it is not a dizzy feeling either. I do not see or hear anything more about black mallards of late. I suppose as the rabbit skin becomes a fox pelt, so has the old black mallard changed into the black duck.

I have made some interesting crosses, although according to some people's ideas

my thoroughbreds might be called "near-mallards." By crossing them with the white Indian runners I get duplicates of some of the pure breeds I have seen. Certainly I believe in introducing new blood into a flock; but, believe me, I want to know where that new blood comes from.

A white Pekin duck (or drake) can make a good attempt at flying if he is kept in the company of good flyers. The mallards get to be the tamest of ducks if you feed and make pets of them. But the taste does not change when they are hand-reared, and, anyway, it is the taste that tells.

I expect to sample more than one gray and black before the snow flies and judge for myself if my ducks are up to the standard.

Just a word about game laws. Either cut out laws or enforce them. There are some rabbit hunters who will spare a fine ruffed grouse or quail during the closed season on the same. But they are few and scattering like hens' teeth. There are a few who can remember the closed season rules, but they also are few.

[The Black or Dusky duck of the ornithologists is known throughout the central and western States as "The black Mallard." Most breeders use the proper name, black duck, and the proper name will be used more and more everywhere as the game breeding industry grows. We have had several inquiries about black mallards and black ducks. All the birds are properly named and pictured in "Our Feathered Game."

The taste of any meat is much affected by food. A hand reared, corn fed mallard is as good as a tame duck. Wild rice, celery, acorns, duck weeds, water cress and other wild foods improve the flavor just as a diet of fish and shore refuse may destroy the flavor of a wild duck. The far-famed canvas back, when feeding on wild celery on Chesapeake Bay or on the lakes of Wisconsin and elsewhere, is a splendid table fowl. It is not regarded as a very good duck on the Pacific coast when its food imparts a fishy flavor. Ruffed grouse sometimes become too bitter to be desirable when feeding on buds late in the year. The sage grouse tastes strongly of sage when feeding on the artemisia, but young birds feeding on grasshoppers are excellent. Food has very much to do with the palatability of all game. See the opinion of Mr. Chiles, of Kentucky, on this point, in his article in this issue.—Editor.]

The Flavor of Canvas-backs.

A good story was told, long ago, about an Eastern senator, who claimed at a Washington dinner that there were no ducks equal to the celery-fed canvas-backs procured on the Chesapeake. An Ohio senator quietly procured some canvas-backs from the Sandusky marshes, Ohio, and invited his friend to dine. When the last named renewed the assertion about the merits of the birds he was informed that he was eating ducks from Ohio. He was much surprised, but admitted the game was of excellent flavor. The duck food in the Sandusky marshes is excellent, or it was so until the carp were introduced and rooted up much of the wild food. The Ohio clubs now are said to feed tons of grain to their ducks.

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Patriotic Work.

One of our New England members writes: "Our object is to make this one of the biggest game farms in the United States and I think we can as we have the ways and means. Our young birds are coming along in good shape and we are going to keep everything for brood stock for another year. We will have about 400 ringneck hens for laying and about 200 mallard ducks. This ought to give us a chance to show something.

I have also ordered some bob white quail and we will do something in that line in another year. We have a permit for trapping ducks for brood stock and the chances for trapping teal, black ducks, and quite a few other varieties are very good. We have a large pond with plenty of feed in it on the farm. I have black duck and wood duck and they seem very much at home and will feed with the others."

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Game Officers and Permits.

All patriotic state game officers should issue permits to game breeders to trap the necessary brood stock. Since it is evident they will produce thousands of game birds and many will be sold for restocking. No good reason can be assigned why permits should not be issued in

states where the laws provide for them. States which do not permit the trapping of brood stock are behind the times and should wake up.

Game Profits.

Since the price of grain and other foods for birds is high and rising it is evident that game will be far more profitable than poultry since it commands better prices. The prices for live game birds, also, are rising and the prices now obtainable are sufficient to more than offset the increased price in food.

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It is said that eggs of common fowl will sell for \$1.00 per dozen before long. Granting that they may reach this figure there evidently is more profit in pheasant eggs of the common species at \$3.00 per dozen. The eggs of aviary pheasants are much higher. Pheasants do not require as much food as barnyard fowls do.

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Tame turkeys no doubt will be very high in price. Wild turkeys sell readily for \$20 and \$25 each and if they are reared properly in large enclosures where they can secure an abundance of grasshoppers, berries, acorns, seeds and other wild foods, they will require comparatively little grain; and the percentage of birds reared will be larger than that on many farms where tame turkeys are reared for the market. There is a big demand for wild turkeys and their eggs. The eggs sell for \$12 and \$15 per dozen and advertisers in The Game Breeder report they can not fill their orders.

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Wild ducks sell readily for \$3.00 per pair and up. Where they are reared beside marshes and ponds containing much natural food one meal of corn a day is sufficient to hold them even when strong on the wing. The eggs of black ducks and mallards sell for \$25 and \$30 per hundred. A large wild duck breeder in a recent letter to The Game Breeder says he sold so many eggs last spring that he did not have enough left to hatch his usual number of ducks.

The price of beef and mutton is high and going higher. Venison sold for nearly twice as much as usual last year and the price will no doubt be higher than ever next winter. The owners of deer parks find deer breeding very profitable.

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The number of women engaged in game breeding is increasing rapidly. All report the new industry as interesting and profitable.

Production of Leghorns.

The average production of eggs by hens of all kinds and ages in the United States is 85. Unselected White Leghorns, however, produce an average of 130 eggs for the first year, 120 for the second, 110 for the third, 85 for the fourth, and fall off about 10 a year up to the eighth. These figures are from a bulletin of the Utah Experiment Station. If the first year production be low, the second will be high and vice versa, the total production for three years being about the same.

Good Cheer.

The Game Breeder:

You say I sent you too much money for a subscription to The Game Breeder. Well, don't let that worry you; just send me the paper as long as the money lasts, and I will send a little too much more. I guess I will do some advertising and hire a stenographer. We are producing game birds for hotel use, saving the finest specimens for breeding stock. When you travel, look us up; the latch string is always out. Help yourself to anything you find. That's Western style. Bully for The Game Breeder, I say.

P. A. BRENSON.

Letters like the above are most encouraging and cheer the toilers in the office who are all pulling together to help keep the game laws off of the farms which have game in order that America quickly can become the biggest game producing country on earth. We are glad to hear you are supplying hotels. Our Eastern hotels are beginning to use a big lot of American game since The Game Conservation Society set the fashion for game

eating at its annual game dinner. Hotels help to keep the prices up and the business good.—Editor.

More Ducks Wanted.

A game breeder on one of the big shoots writes: "An advertisement in The Game Breeder caused me to oversell eggs and I must therefore buy a few hundred young ducks. Where can I get a few hundred young ducks?"

[Write to our advertisers and tell them The Game Breeder will be much pleased to see you get the ducks. Since we are sure they will be reduced to a food in true sporting style and that no "otherwise than by shooting" goes on your ground.—Editor.]

Destructive Quail.

In a recent letter from New Mexico we are told the quail are now destroying the crops in the writer's neighborhood. "They have raised so many this year they are very destructive." The remedy is plain. Secure a permit from the State game officer; trap and sell a good part of the bird crop, keeping plenty of breeding stock for next season. Use part of the profits to pay a scare boy to keep the birds out of the fields at the season when they are destructive. You will soon make more money with quails than with any other crop and it will be easy to protect the fields at certain seasons. There is no State in the Union where game ranches would be more profitable than New Mexico. Remember the country needs meat, and it is your patriotic duty to supply some of it. We can sell hundreds of thousands of quail at excellent prices, \$15 a dozen and up.

New Mexico has cattle ranches and sheep ranches. Why not have the far more profitable game ranches?

A Successful Year.

One of our western members writing about the good work of a game keeper says: "He has shown us how to rear game. We have 4,500 pheasants in the field and 200 wild turkeys. The vermin that he has trapped and exterminated is astounding."

From all over the country, north,

south, east and west, we have good reports about the abundance of game where plenty of traps are used and where the number of game enemies controlled is large. One of the most important parts of the game preserve equipment is plenty of Oneida traps. They cost very little and it is a good plan to use plenty of them.

More About Traps.

It is important to buy the traps early when the place is rented or purchased. We once started a game preserve purchasing rolls of wire, posts, coops, hatching boxes and other appliances, but neglected to buy the traps. The keeper said he wanted a lot of traps but before we bought them he sent a letter saying, "hurry up the traps; the owls and crows are taking the chickens and eggs." We had a few young fowl and were hatching thousands of game eggs. A few days later we visited the place and were surprised at the number of great horned owls and other vermin which had been trapped. Traps and plenty of them will result in the saving of hundreds of eggs and birds and at present prices the sale of a few birds or eggs will pay the cost of a barrel of traps.

America the Biggest Game Producing Country in the World!

How well this sounds! How rapidly the time approaches when the statement will be absolutely true. When the object of The Game Breeder was first placed on the cover of the magazine there were doubters. Few remain.

A number of ministers of the gospel are breeding game and report the industry quite interesting. We believe a few popular sermons on the desirability of producing game food would be timely.

Many doctors and lawyers, who live in the country are going in for game breeding as a side line. We are quite interested in observing the letter heads of many new members of The Game Conservation Society which indicate their vocations.

The Game Breeder

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Telephone, Beekman 3685.

Our mail indicates that Cuba may have some game to sell before long. Why not?

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Reports of the sale of any commodity at good prices are the best incentive to production. We shall be glad to publish short articles from our members on the cost of production and the prices realized.

GAME ABUNDANCE.

Reports coming to our game census indicate clearly that the United States now has more pheasants than any country in the world. There are more wild fowl in the United States than in any other country and it seems strange that wild ducks should have been sold cheaper than common poultry (before the war) in many countries and that only a few species of duck, in very limited numbers and very few pheasants, are seen in the American markets. One reason is the big demand for live birds for propagation and the splendid prices paid for live game.

No good reason can be assigned why pheasants and wild ducks and, in fact, quail, grouse, wild turkeys and bigger game should not quickly become plentiful and cheap in the American markets. All that is needed is some simple amendments to the laws and a little encouragement on the part of intelligent State game officers. The new industry is

growing so rapidly that we may safely predict that North America will become the biggest game producing country in the world in a very few years in spite of all obstacles. This result could now be accomplished in one year with the proper assistance of State and Federal officers who are concerned with the game.

During two recent trips, one to the South and the other to New England and part of New York State, we were surprised at the number of people who own game and are engaged in breeding it for sport and for profit. It is only by rambling in out of the way places that one can see what is going on. The large number of small breeders who have a few hundred game birds soon will be strong enough to insist on more freedom than they now enjoy and we predict that America soon will be as free as any country which has its markets full of cheap game.

NEW GAME FARMS AND PRESERVES.

We have been consulted lately about the creation of several big shooting preserves and commercial game farms. Two of the last named proposed to rear 5,000 birds or more the first season. One of the proposed shooting preserves will rear as many birds and possibly many deer.

During two short tours to inspect some of the new shooting clubs where game is reared we discovered a number of small game breeders who are rearing a few hundred birds. Upon one occasion we saw a large number of mallards and black ducks which flew out of two small ponds, being alarmed by the train. They circled about and before we were out of sight they evidently were settling again to the preserved waters. Inquiry revealed the fact that a number of people in the vicinity had wild ducks. We secured the names and addresses and will enlist them as members of the Game Conservation Society.

Upon another occasion, traveling in a car from the railway station to a new game farm which has just started, the

chauffeur pointed out a pond where many wild ducks are reared and said that there were several other places in the vicinity which had game. We ascertained that some of the breeders had no licenses and were unaware that any were required. We advised the game owners to get the proper licenses without delay.

The State game officers, we are sure, will not tolerate the arresting of people (as was done in New York recently) who in good faith promptly ask for licenses as soon as they learn they are required to have them.

We believe it would be a good plan for all State officers to give more publicity to the requirements of the new industry. Bulletins explaining how to breed game for sport and for profit, emphasizing the importance of breeding game abundantly as a part of our food supply, will be timely and will produce excellent results.

Nearly one hundred new breeders joined the Game Conservation Society in July, which is most surprising because this is one of two months in the year when the least effort is made to secure new members, and the society is short-handed this year on account of the absence of its younger men.

In one State we learned that the State game officers were issuing permits to breeders to take wild birds for breeding purposes, and it is greatly to their credit. All patriotic game officers should do this where the laws permit it, and they should have the laws amended promptly in States where it is illegal to procure stock birds for propagation.

WILL THE SINGER SURVIVE?

At a time when the wild turkey occurred in Ohio this bird was placed on the song bird list. After a few years (and while the law was in the books), the bird ceased to sing because it was extinct.

At a time when the bison occurred in Colorado this food animal also was placed on the song bird list and, while the law was in the books, the buffalo ceased to sing or roar because it was extinct.

There has been a great saving to both States in the matter of annual legislation by reason of the total disappearance of the big food bird and the bison. No longer is it necessary to have long-winded debates and long worded statutes protecting the turkey and the bison. They both vanished after shooting was prohibited for all time or after they were declared to be singers and non-edible. As foods easily they might have survived. In some places they have survived as foods.

The rabbit-shooters will persist and exist in Ohio, no doubt. The quail always will be a temptation to them and to the average farm boy, as it was to us in our youthful days, when we knew it as a good food bird, not in the song bird class. All real naturalists know that if the foods and covers of quail be destroyed; if they be exposed to their natural enemies and to domestic enemies, the cats, dogs and rats, and if in addition, there be slight additional checks to their increase, the rabbit shooters, for example, the species, will not increase in numbers, but, on the other hand, it may vanish as did the wild turkey in Ohio and the bison in Colorado after they were placed in the song bird class.

The survival of the quail in Ohio may depend upon the activities of the rabbit shooter. Certainly it will never be a highly desirable food bird until the laws be changed so as to give it a chance to become plentiful and cheap.

The eminent naturalist, Dr. Shufeldt, was right when he deplored the enactment of laws which evidently "protect the game off the face of the earth."

The Ohio farmers should make a lot of money out of quail and the people should have the food in abundance and cheap in the markets.

We have won our fight in so far as pheasants, ducks and deer are concerned. These are tremendously abundant on many game farms and preserves. Now for the antelope, grouse, wild turkeys and quail! We propose to make these even more abundant than the deer, pheasants and ducks.

CORRESPONDENCE.**Mallard Breeding.**

Editor Game Breeder:

I have been raising wild mallards for years and shipping them all over the country. They are easy to raise and are not subject to all kinds of diseases. I have sold all I care to dispose of this season.

I raise pigeons, guineas and ducks and they all have the free range of the place.
Iowa.

C. FERREL.

You will find a good market for both mallards and eggs, when you have any to sell, by advertising in *The Game Breeder*. The demand is excellent; the prices are up. We hope soon you can supply many thousands of ducks and eggs.—Editor.

=

What It Is.

M. Fullerton,
New York City.

In answer to your inquiry: The Game Conservation Society is the largest association of game and fish breeders in the world. Its object is to encourage propagation and it proposes to make North America the biggest game producing country in the world. The new industry is growing with rapid strides.

The Society is supported by life members, contributing members, stock members, and subscribing members. The last-named pay \$1.00 per year and where special service and correspondence, certification of advertising, etc., are required, there is an extra charge of \$1.00 for The Game Guild, a committee of the Society which requires fair dealing, investigates complaints, etc. The Guild also has a few contributing members who pay \$5.00 annually. We find it impossible to handle the large mail, which comes from all parts of the United States and Canada, promptly and The Guild members who pay for the service get special letters with considerable promptness. Any further information will be furnished on request, but to receive a prompt letter it will be necessary for you to join The Guild. Several members of the office force are serving in the army and navy but we manage to answer all letters after some delay. Some of the letters which

appear to be of general interest are answered in the magazine.

Yours truly,

J. C. HUNTINGTON, Secretary.
Per M. B.

OUTINGS AND INNINGS.

They were having an argument as to whether it was correct to say of a hen "she is setting" or "sitting," and not being able to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, they decided to submit the problem to Farmer Giles.

"My friends," said he, "that don't interest me at all. What I want to know when I hear a hen cackle is whether she is laying or lying."

Fish in Sunken Launch.

When Burley Peterman sunk his launch, the City of Findlay, Ohio, in Blanchard River in order that the water might close up several seams, he did not expect he would have an opportunity to enter the wholesale fish business after he recovered it. The launch acted as a seine and when it was raised there were several bushels of extremely fine fish in it.

Lucky that no game protectionist had him jailed for seining without a license.

The Wise Fool.

"Age brings wisdom," observed the sage.

"But it doesn't leave us much time to use it," replied the fool.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Hoister.

Clerk—Have we any sassafras root?

Merchant—By George! There's something we can jump the price on that I have completely overlooked.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"And She Shall Have Music Wherever She Goes."

Lakewood, O.—Cats are being registered. Soon all must wear license tags, collars and there is to be a bell on each one, and the owners must pay the city fifty cents.

Bully for the Remingtons.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION WORKERS MAKE
GARDENS ON COMPANY PROPERTY.

[Just opened a letter from the Far West in which the writer says "Bully for The Game Breeder." See correspondence this issue. We like to pass good things along.—Editor.]

The problem of interesting citizens in the cultivation of vacant land for increased food production has been reversed in so far as it concerns the employees of the Remington Arms Union Metallic Cartridge Co., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn. The workers themselves have asked the company for land to cultivate.

In response to the repeated demands of their employes and in conformity with their policy of furthering intra-company co-operation, the company have commissioned engineers to stake out garden plots measuring 100 by 50 feet. Two hundred and thirty-nine plots are already available for use and are rapidly being taken up by the industrial gardeners. The plots are laid out upon that part of the company's property included in "Remington City," an extensive home building development which is still in process of construction, and are adjacent to the homes purchased by and rented to those who will utilize them.

The lack of housing facilities in Bridgeport at the beginning of the European war when the influx of workers taxed housing accommodation to the utmost, led the company to develop "Remington City" on 200 acres within the city limits and adjoining the Remington plants. Portions of this land have been given over to the gardening operations.

The plots are being released first to those employes occupying company houses or homes purchased from the company, but after a definite period the other employes who are not tenants or owners in the above sense will be given the opportunity to secure plots.

No charge will be made for the use of the plots. Where it is desired by any number of employes who occupy con-

tiguous land, this land will be ploughed and the cost distributed equitably.

As an illustration of the interest aroused by the announcement that the company would allot garden plots to those wishing to cultivate land, 100 applications were received within less than twenty-four hours after notices were distributed. If the present rate of release holds, the company will soon face the problem of finding sufficient space to meet the demand.

[We can see about 100 new game breeders in sight here. There is no better place to rear a few quails and pheasants than a garden. The last named may sample a little truck, but when they grow rapidly into \$6 birds the gardener can stand the loss of a few cabbage leaves, lettuce and other green stuff. Send us the names and they all shall have The Game Breeder.—Editor.]

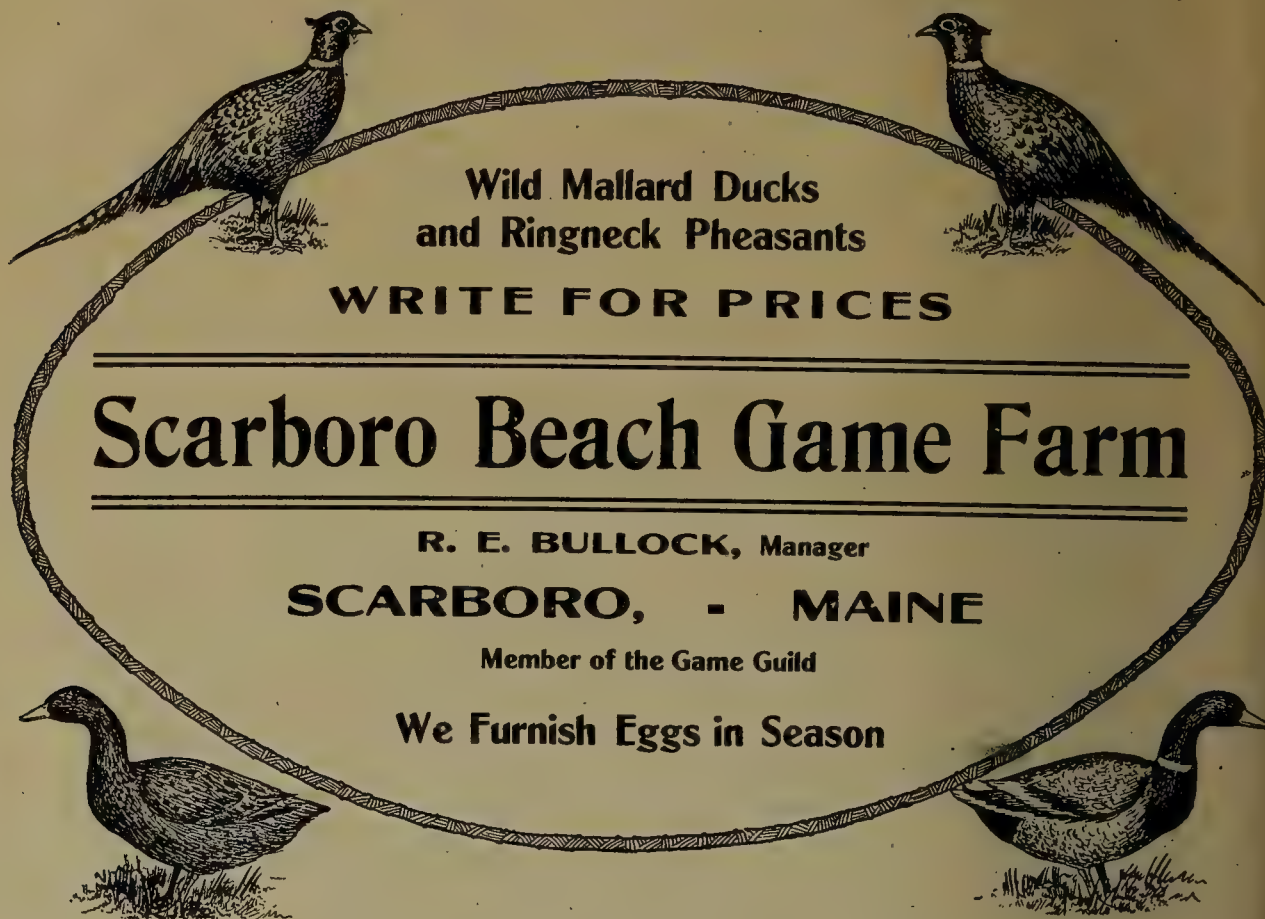
Shooting in France Opened.

France will allow the hunting of game for the first time since 1913. A dispatch from Paris states that the closed season of nearly four years has resulted in damage to crops by depredating animals.

The season will open only after the crop has been harvested and will be short. The government has decided this measure is necessary to protect agriculture against the ravages of game, which has multiplied greatly in the three years during which only restricted destruction of depredating animals has been allowed.

Hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges are particularly abundant, while wild boar, driven from the forests of northeast France by the military operations, have done considerable damage in regions where they never were seen before. The opening of the hunting season, besides saving the crops, is expected to help relieve the provisions market.—*Remington Live News Notes.*

Now is the time to send in subscriptions and to get your friends to join us.—Editor.



Wild Mallard Ducks
and Ringneck Pheasants

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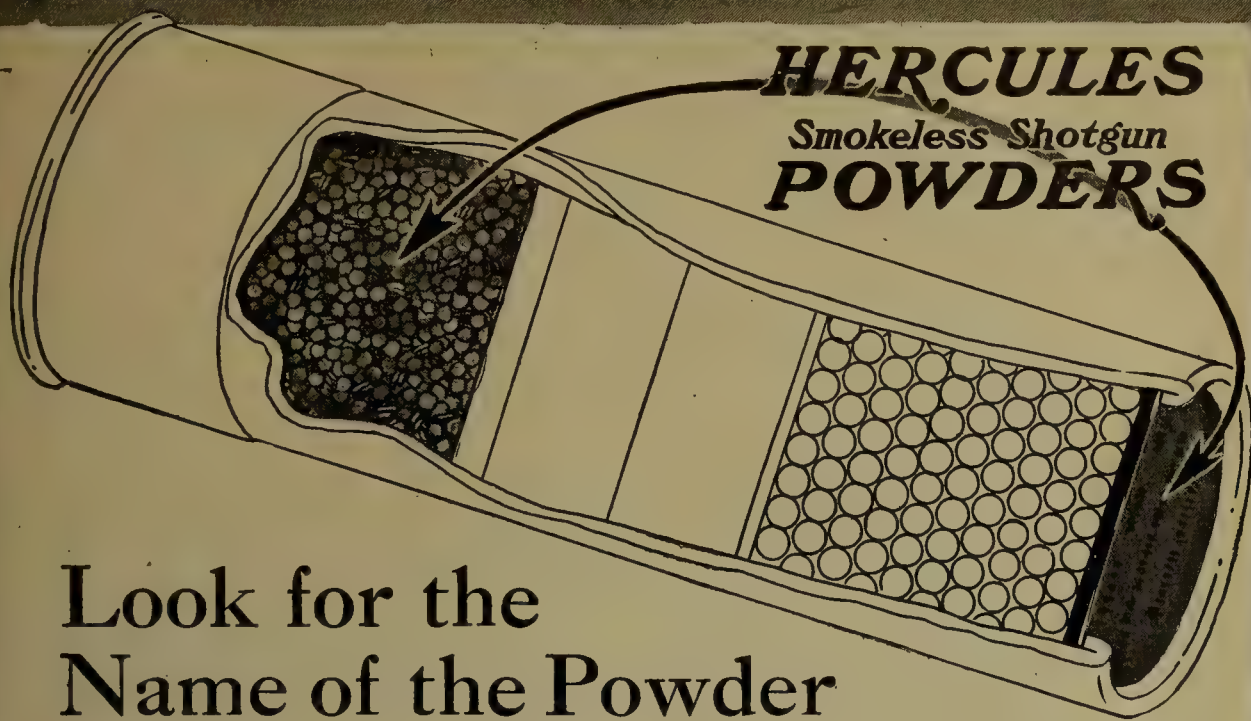
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On the top wad of every shell, and on the cover of the box in which the shells are sold, is printed the name of the powder with which the shell is loaded. Look for this name when buying. See that it is either Infalible or "E. C."

These powders are of high quality and uniform quality. They give light recoil, even patterns, and high velocity. Write for a free booklet which describes them fully.

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Wood Duck, Mallard and Gray Call Duck Eggs.

All the eggs I ship are guaranteed to be from non-related, pure bred, strong, healthy birds, correctly mated; all eggs are guaranteed not over three days old when they leave my farm.

Full instructions given with each order as to setting, hatching, feeding and general care of the young birds.

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I also manufacture a full line of special foods for the successful raising of young pheasants and wild waterfowl, also for feeding the old birds all the year round; write for prices

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For Sale—Mallard and Black Ducks, good flyers, \$1.50 each. **ALBERT F. HOLMES**, 8 Bosworth Street, Boston, Mass.

SIBERIAN FUR FARM, HAMILTON, CANADA; breeds Foxes, Martin, Mink, Skunks, Wild Geese, Ducks, Pheasants and Black Siberian Hares. Send 25 cents for Booklet on the latter.

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FOR SALE—6 PAIRS, 2 AND 3 YEAR OLD PEACOCKS, \$15.00 a pair. 5 pair Lady Amherst Pheasants, \$15.00. 8 pair Golden, \$12.50 a pair. 3 pair Reeves Pheasants, \$15.00. 6 pair Mandarin Ducks acclimated, 1 year, full plumaged, \$18.00 a pair. 1 pair Wood Ducks, \$18.00. Also full line Foreign Birds of song and plumage. **J. L. OAKES**, Union Stock Yards, Denver, Colorado.

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WANTED—100 OR 150 YOUNG MALLARD DUCKS. Must be good clear stock. The younger the better. **SCARBORO BEACH GAME FARM**, Scarborough, Maine.

PHEASANTS WANTED.

Between two and three hundred field grown young ringnecks for breeding purposes. In application particulars please quote prices for pairs, trios, and cocks and hens separately in such quantity for Fall or Winter delivery. Address **A. M.**, care of Game Breeder, 150 Nassau Street, New York.

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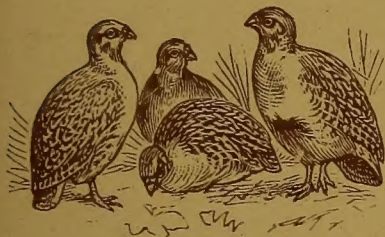
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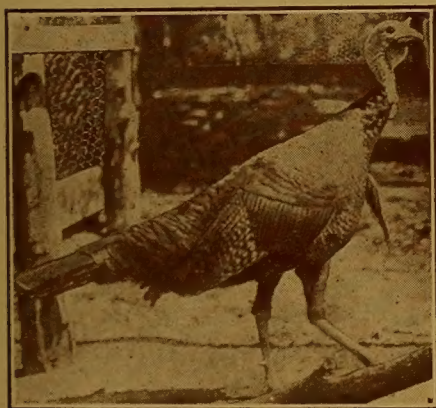
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